

Iraqi Kurdish refugees go home

TEHRAN (AFP) — Some 220 Iraqi Kurds who took shelter in Iran during fighting in northern Iraq returned home Saturday under the supervision of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said. The refugees went through the crossing point of Haj Omran in north-western Iran, IRNA said. Ten days ago an Iranian Interior Ministry official called on all Kurdish refugees to return home. The ministry says 1.3 million Afghan refugees, 490,000 Iraqis and 30,000 Asians of various nationalities are sheltering in Iran. Iraqi Kurds fled into neighbouring Iran in droves after the 1991 Gulf war when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein battled a Kurdish uprising and in September last year when rival Kurdish factions crossed swords in northern Iraq.

Jordan Times

An independent daily newspaper published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الرأي

Saudi Arabia launches first Saudi missile

RIYADH (AP) — Defence Minister Prince Sultan launched Saudi Arabia's first locally produced surface-to-surface missile Saturday to mark the opening of a military complex. A military spokesman said Prince Sultan also watched a demonstration with live ammunition at the new firing range at the complex in Kharij, 130 kilometres south of Riyadh. No details were available on the exercise or the missile. Work on the complex, which comprises a firing range and a shop for maintenance and ammunition inspection, began four years ago, said the spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

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Dakamseh sentenced to 25 years imprisonment with hard labour

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The trial of Ahmad Dakamseh came to a close Saturday as military court judge Brigadier Ma'moun Khasawneh read out a sentence of life imprisonment with hard labour.

Dakamseh was tried for the murder of seven Israeli school girls who were shot to death while visiting Baqoura, March 13.

The five-man military court found the 26-year-old soldier not guilty of premeditated murder but convicted him of the "intentional murder of several people."

Brig. Khasawneh said Dakamseh was to be demoted from his rank of corporal to private, and dishonourably discharged from the military.

The judge explained that Dakamseh was not convicted of premeditated murder because he was suffering from an "anti-social mental disorder" that made him unable to control himself and prevent him from realising the outcome of his deeds.

The 90-minute court session ended a four-month-

motional trial.

"The convict has disobeyed military rule which prevents him from using his weapon without prior permission from his superiors," the judge said.

"He also stained his military honour with the blood of the innocent girls... where one of his duties as his post was to protect Israeli visitors and guests, not shoot them," Brig. Khasawneh said.

"By this deed, he neither served his country nor his army. His action was against the principles of Islam which stress on the importance of protecting the non-Muslims while they are in the custody of Muslims," he added.

The Military Court's verdict cannot be repealed in any court. His Majesty King Hussein is the only one who is able to reduce or ease the sentence with a recommendation from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of staff.

The chairman of the joint chiefs-of-staff also has the right to cancel the verdict and call for a retrial.

During the sessions Dakamseh, who was wearing an olive-green tunic, appeared calm as he read



Ahmad Dakamseh reciting verses from Holy Koran before his conviction on Saturday (Photo by Yusef 'Allan)

from the Holy Koran.

But when the judge announced the verdict in the silent courtroom and the session was adjourned, the convict refused to vacate the cage and grabbed the bars until military police forced him out of the courtroom.

Tight security was imposed inside and outside the court compound in Marj

Al Hammam, by anti riot police.

The mother of one of seven Israeli schoolgirls killed by Dakamseh last March said his life sentence was too lenient and he should have received the death penalty.

"I think the court felt sorry for him. For murdering seven girls he should have received the death sentence," Margalit Bedayev said.

"I think he'll be released for good behaviour in 15 years or 10 years," Ms. Bedayev was quoted as saying by Reuters.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's communications chief, David Bar-Ilan, expressed satisfaction at the verdict.

"I feel that the conduct of the Jordanian government throughout this horrible incident has been exemplary and that the verdict is eminently justified," Mr. Bar-Ilan told Reuters.

Relatives of the accused soldier were banned from attending the trial, which was open to local and international news organisations.

The relatives burst into tears when they heard the verdict from reporters and started shouting out at the government.

Some of them started ululating and chanted "Allah Akbar, or God is great," outside the court.

The defence issued a statement expressing its "shock" over the verdict and said that it expected the sentence to be eased because the "crime was not

a premeditated one and it was committed while he was suffering from a mental illness." Opposition leaders who attended the trial were critical of the verdict.

"It was a political trial and I expected the life sentence," said deputy Toujan Faisal after the session.

"It would have aggravated the anger of the Jordanian people if he was sentenced to death. But we hope that this is not the last of it. Eventually we will try to get him acquitted," she added.

Reacting to the verdict and sentence, President of the Engineers Association, Leith Shbeilat, said "the trial was not fair. Dakamseh was convicted, and the sentence was pronounced before the trial had started," he added. "There are no guarantees that Dakamseh will not be harmed inside his jail," Mr. Shbeilat added.

But Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi refuted these statements and said that trial was fair.

"This trial was conducted according to military law, and the politicisation of the trial has not come from the government but from the other side [the opposition]," said Dr. Mutawi following the weekly cabinet session Saturday.

"The trial procedures have insured the maximum degree of justice. Any verdict that comes from a Jordanian court is a just one whether it is a civilian or a military court," he added.

IAF executive council endorses poll boycott Party's Shura council to convene for final decision next Thursday

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Executive Council of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) has decided to boycott the upcoming parliamentary elections, a senior IAF official said Saturday.

The official, Ibrahim Zeid Keilani, added that the decision taken during a meeting of the IAF Executive Council is in essence a recommendation to the Shura council to boycott the elections. He said the decision was supported by the majority of the council's members.

"The council's decision is final," Dr. Keilani told the Jordan Times. "The final decision in this regard would be taken during the IAF's Shura council meeting this week," he added.

Dr. Keilani, himself a deputy in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament, stressed that the IAF members "will abide by the decision taken by their leader-

ship." Another IAF member, Hamzeh Mansour confirmed the decision of the Executive Council but said that the "Shura Council which will meet on Thursday is the master which governs everything."

Mr. Mansour emphasised that "participation in upcoming elections is not in the hands of the Executive Council." He declined to elaborate further.

The IAF's decision came almost two weeks after the Muslim Brotherhood's decision to boycott the November elections.

More than 70 per cent of the IAF members are loyal to the Brotherhood, the most organised political group in the Kingdom. The remaining 30 per cent are independents.

The Brotherhood also extends financial and administrative assistance to the IAF. Last week, Mr. Mansour said that IAF members will abide by their party's deci-

sion and ruled out a break-away by members opposed to the boycott.

Several opposition parties have expressed their support to the Brotherhood and emphasised that they would coordinate their stand with the Islamists.

But at least three leftist parties, including the Communist Party and Progressive Baath Party, have declared that they will not boycott the elections.

The Brotherhood leader, Abdul Majid Thneibat told reporters last week that his movement will refrain from "making a deal with the government" which does not meet their conditions. Brotherhood pre-conditions in participation in the upcoming elections include the abolishing of the one-man, one-vote system, the cancellation of the Press and Publications temporary law and a government guarantee to conduct honest elections.

Palestinians protest Israeli rejection of U.N. resolution

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Palestine's U.N. observer Friday protested Israel's rejection of a U.N. resolution and threatened further action aimed at halting settlement building.

In a letter to U.N. Chief Kofi Annan, Palestinian delegate Nasser Kidwa said that Israeli reactions to Tuesday's vote were "a reason for increased concern on our part, and on the part of the international community."

"The reaction reflects the same kind of intransigence, arrogance and even contempt for the will of the international community," he said.

In a resolution adopted on Tuesday, the U.N. General Assembly condemned Israel for ignoring an April resolution calling for an immediate halt to settlement building, particularly at a site in disputed East Jerusalem.

The General Assembly also recommended that member states "actively discourage activities which directly contribute to the building of Jewish settlements in occupied territories, including east Jerusalem."

The vote was carried by 131 votes in three, with 14 abstentions.

Mr. Kidwa noted in his letter that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had

Netanyahu calls for summit with Arafat

CAIRO (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he would like to meet face-to-face with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat before the four-month deadline in the peace process could be brought to an interview published here Saturday.

"We meet and our representatives talk, we will succeed in reaching a settlement," Mr. Netanyahu told the Egyptian newspaper weekly Al-Ahram.

"It's like the dance, it takes two to tango," the right-wing premier said.

The two leaders have not met since February. The following month, the Palestinians accused Israel of peace talks to protect the construction of a new Jewish settlement in Israeli-annexed

Arab east Jerusalem. They refuse to return to negotiations until Israel freezes settlement building, which Mr. Netanyahu refuses to do. The resulting stalemate has triggered violent protests on the West Bank, especially in the divided town of Hebron.

"The situation will continue to deteriorate unless the Palestinians agree to resume negotiations," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"We must talk to each other because peace cannot be achieved through violence," he added.

However, he vowed to press ahead with expanding settlements and said he would never agree to the Palestinians' demand to have east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state.

national community with the aim of ensuring Israel's compliance with the provisions of those resolutions and other relevant U.N. resolutions, as well as provisions of international law," the Palestinian diplomat said.

PNA charges 3 presidential guards with gang-style terror, collaboration

NABLUS (AFP) — Three members of the personal guard of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and a fourth Palestinian went on trial here Saturday for kidnapping and collaboration with Israel.

The three members of Force 17, presidential guard, and a civilian, ran a gang which kidnapped and tortured several Palestinians north of the West Bank town of Nablus, prosecutors here said.

In the opening day of their trial on Saturday, the defendants said that taped confessions they had made were "correct and had not been given under any physical or mental pressure."

Palestinian collaborator with Israel found killed

NABLUS (AFP) — The bullet-riddled body of a Palestinian who collaborated with the Israeli authorities was found Saturday near the West Bank town of Nablus, Israeli and Palestinian sources said. The body of Basman Tiber Bani Jamia, 36, a resident of the nearby village of Aqraba, was found just outside of Nablus, a colonel in the Palestinian national security forces, Nidal Asouli, told AFP. Israeli military sources said Jamia, who had an Israeli identity card, had been shot several times in the head and chest. The body was found by an Israeli patrol and taken to a forensic institute in Abu Kabir near Tel Aviv, they said.

Palestinian security sources said Jamia had been accused many times during the 1987-1993 intifada uprising against Israeli occupation of collaborating with Israel's internal security agency Shin Bet.

The defendants are charged with kidnapping and assault, "creating a state of terror," collaboration with "a foreign power," and "diminishing the reputation of the security forces."

PNA asks U.S. to restate its commitment to peace

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

BOSTON — The Palestinian leadership has asked the American administration to restate its commitment to the peace process in words and in action or risk a total erosion or explosion of the peace process.

The American administration said it is considering options to "re-energise the peace process" but that a halt of "violence" was a prerequisite for success.

The Palestinians, however, stated that there will be no resumption of talks without a cessation of Israeli settlement building. The Palestinian demand is a step back from previous stipulations that Israel should make a commitment not to take any unilateral steps that will prejudice the final status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

What the Palestinians are asking for now is that the American administration pressure Israel to stop the construction in Jabal Abu Ghneim in east Jerusalem.

On its part, the administration did not disclose anything about its "options,"

U.S. tells Arafat to take Israeli charge seriously

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has sent a "very stiff message" to the Palestinians, telling them to take seriously Israeli charges that Palestinian police officers planned to attack Jews, U.S. officials said Friday.

Israel's army arrested three Palestinian police officers in the West Bank Monday, announcing that it had thwarted an attack on Jews at a settlement near Nablus.

"We believe very strongly that these allegations must be taken with the highest degree of seriousness and serious purpose" by the Palestinians, said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns.

"There can be no place for anyone with any association with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA)

trying to take part in an act of terrorism," Mr. Burns told a news briefing.

Mr. Burns said Palestinian President Yasser Arafat had informed the United States that he had ordered an investigation into the affair.

Israel has demanded that Mr. Arafat take action against the officers and any others involved. Mr. Arafat Friday rejected Israeli allegations of possible involvement by senior Palestinian officials.

Mr. Burns said the United States was calling for full cooperation between Israel and the PNA "to get to the bottom of this."

U.S. officials described the affair as "a very serious problem" and said Washington had delivered "a very stiff message" to the Palestinian leadership.

The American-Palestinian exchange of ideas took

(Continued on page 3)

Prestige INTERNATIONAL

Charming Chaplins
Spice Girls
Val Kilmer
Suzanne Vega

THE NEW ENGLISH MAGAZINE



A JEWISH SECT AT TIME OF JESUS IS BEING STUDIED TODAY: Lena Liebman, an Israeli Department of Antiquities' worker, looks at one of the Dead Sea scrolls, which were discovered by a Bedouin fifty years ago, at the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem. Today, more than one hundred world experts of the Qumran scrolls are due to gather at the Israeli museum for a four-day symposium on the state of their interpretation. The scrolls tell the story of an ancient community of Jewish anchorites living in the desert at the time of Jesus (AFP photo)

Saudi starts crackdown on illegal foreigners

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia started a crackdown Saturday aimed at getting rid of a reported 700,000 illegal foreign workers, most of them from the Indian subcontinent and Egypt.

The Interior Ministry said foreigners without proper working papers and Saudis harbouring or employing them face up to six months in prison and fines of up to 100,000 rials (\$27,000). The ministry said the workers had a three-month grace period to report to the authorities without facing punishment.

Most of the country's illegal workers enter the country to perform religious rites and overstay their visas. About three million foreigners travel to Saudi

Arabia yearly to visit Mecca and Medina, Islam's holiest cities, and to perform the Muslim pilgrimage, or Hajj.

The oil-rich kingdom regularly departs workers who stay on after their visas expire.

Saudi Arabia wants to regulate the labour market and replace foreigners with Saudis. Foreign workers send some 60 billion rials (\$16 billion) abroad, and employers of illegal workers do not pay income to the authorities.

Foreigners, mostly Indians and Egyptians, comprise about one-third of Saudi Arabia's 18 million people.

Arafat appoints new PNA attorney general

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has appointed his top legal adviser as the new attorney general of the self-rule authority, the new appointee said Saturday.

Fayez Sbaaban Abu Rahma, 67, confirmed to AFP that he began work Saturday after Mr. Arafat picked him late Thursday night to fill the attorney general post left vacant by Khaled Qidra, who resigned a month ago.

Mr. Abu Rahma was Mr. Arafat's top adviser on legal issues and had served several times as the president of the Palestinian Lawyers' Syndicate in the Gaza Strip.

He participated in the first meetings between Mr. Arafat's Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) and former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker which eventually led to the launching of Madrid peace process with Israel in 1991, sources close to Mr. Abu Rahma said.

He is also the cousin of Khaled Wazir, Mr. Arafat's second in command known by his nom de guerre "Abu Jihad," who was assassinated in Tunis in 1988, apparently by Israeli agents.

Mr. Abu Rahma's predecessor, Mr. Qidra, resigned for health reasons but many human rights groups accused him of taking bribes to release suspects on bail and of giving police too free a hand to make arbitrary arrests of suspects.

Defence lawyer says Cairo Israeli spy trial is politically motivated

EGYPT (AP) — The trial of an Israeli accused of spying on Egypt is motivated by politics more than criminal justice, the Israeli defendant's lawyer said Saturday.

"This case is about stopping the normalisation process with Israel," said Fawad Deeb, the lawyer for Azam Azam. "It (normalisation) has moved forward even as Israel's stance toward peace was hardening."

"Now... we (Egypt) want to halt this process," said Mr. Deeb.

Now in its sixth session, the case comes as peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians have broken down, and many Egyptians and other Arabs have urged that Arab governments halt the process of normalising relations with Israel.

Egypt, which made peace with Israel in 1979, has been mediating between Israel and other Arabs and has repeatedly accused the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of violating its accords with the Palestinians.

Mr. Deeb argued that Mr. Netanyahu's hardline stance toward peace was

the main reason behind attempts to slowdown normalising ties with Israel.

He turned to Eli Levi, Israel's consul-general to Egypt who was in the courtroom, pointedly saying, "and with a representative of the government here, I hope that this message will be conveyed."

Azam, 35, who was working in a textile factory outside Cairo at the time of his arrest last November, listened passively as his lawyer presented his case.

Mr. Deeb, while never directly accusing the Egyptian government of interfering in the case, repeatedly sought to cast doubt on the motives behind the trial.

"Is this a case about spying, or is it a story about something else," he asked the panel of three judges presiding over the morning hearing in a state security court.

"There are too many questions unanswered, too many contradictions in the statements and reports issued by the prosecutors," he added.

Mr. Deeb, who has been condemned by other attorneys for taking Azam's case without consulting the

Egyptian Lawyers' Federation, also noted that his client is an Israeli Arab, a member of the Druze sect that is an offshoot of Islam.

"When Israel was formed in 1948, it was the Druze who had held onto their land," he stated. "And, over the years, they have been the most powerful opposition force targeted at Israeli authority. Azam is one of these men."

Azam, charged with aiding and abetting espionage and criminal complicity, is being tried along with Emad Abdul Hamid Ismail, a 25-year-old Egyptian accused of spying for Israel. Two female defendants — allegedly Israeli agents — are being tried in absentia.

The women are alleged to have recruited Ismail by sleeping with him when he visited Israel. Azam then provided him with women's underwear soaked in invisible ink to be used in sending secret messages.

Mr. Deeb said this scenario for the spy case — which was provided by the prosecution, supposedly from statements by the Egyptian defendant Emad Ismail — was "impossible."

He also questioned why it

took several days for Ismail to be arrested after he supposedly told authorities his story.

"If Emad came forward with this information on 19 October, then why did the authorities wait until 23 October to act upon it," he queried. "And what did they do with Emad in those few days — was he sent home or placed under arrest?"

These and other questions have not been addressed in this case, said Mr. Deeb, adding that instead the court chose to accept the prosecution's statements without question.

Speaking before a court packed with state security officers, as well as members of Azam's family, Mr. Deeb also protested the introduction of a new charge of criminal complicity against his client after the case began.

"What must be kept in mind is that the court is the only authority empowered to rule on this case," he said, again implying that the Egyptian government was interfering.

The trial is to continue Sunday.

Moroccan PM on way to U.K. for Western Sahara discussions

RABAT (AFP) — Moroccan Prime Minister Abdul Latif Filali will go to London Saturday for weekend talks with the Polisario Front to end the 23-year dispute over Western Sahara, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

The talks are described in Rabat as "private contacts" based on a peace plan put forward by U.N. special envoy, James Baker, a former U.S. Secretary of State.

Travelling with Mr. Filali

will be Morocco's ambassador to the United Nations, Ahmad Sroussi, and General Abdul Aziz Bennani, commander of Moroccan forces in Western Sahara.

A U.N. spokesman in London said the talks — the third so far this year, and winding up Sunday — focus on putting into effect a 1991 U.N. blueprint for peace, with modifications if both sides agree.

Previous talks took place

in London in April and Lisbon in June.

Algeria and Mauritania have observer status in the peace process, which has faltered over a dispute between Morocco and Polisario over who can vote in a referendum on independence in the former Spanish colony.

A U.N.-monitored ceasefire has held in the mineral-rich, sparsely populated desert territory since September 1991.

Iraq should give Iran oil toward war reparations — Iran

TEHRAN (AP) — Iraq should give Iran one million barrels of oil a day toward reparations for its 1980-88 war, an official Iranian newspaper said Saturday.

Iran says it suffered \$97.2 billion in damage during the war. The United Nations says Iraq started the conflict, which killed an estimated one million people on both sides.

Iraq should allow "Iran to pick a million barrels of oil per day until its economic situation improves and cash reparations are possible," the Iran daily newspaper said in an editorial.

Iraq has never been forced to pay war damages to Iran because the two never signed a formal peace treaty after a U.N.-brokered ceasefire ended the conflict in August 1988. A million barrels of oil would be worth about \$18 million at today's price.

Under a U.N. oil-for-food plan Iraq can sell \$1 billion in oil every 90 days to buy food and medicine. Iraq has been banned from unlimited oil sales since its forces invaded Kuwait in 1990. Iran is the second-largest oil producer inside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). It has an OPEC quota of 3.6 million barrels a day.

Kuwait finds drug problem is not just a Western scourge

KUWAIT (AP) — For years, "Abu Abdullah" and a friend were the only members here of the worldwide group Narcotics Anonymous. When they started Kuwait's branch, they mistakenly thought they had to work in secret.

Then they saw an ad for the group elsewhere and realised anonymity — not secrecy — was the rule. They started advertising, too, and their number grew to more than 40 in six months. Now they hold four weekly meetings, instead of one.

"I was addicted to drugs, but now I'm addicted to the programme," said 39-year-old Abu Abdullah, a triumphant smile on his chubby face as he spoke to 15 addicts and recovered addicts at a meeting. Like others in the group, he doesn't use his real name.

Few doctors have been made of the extent of drug abuse, but news stories, police drug seizures and the growth of Abu's group all suggest Kuwait is facing what many

here had thought was only a Western problem.

Since narcotics anonymous went public last December, its hotline has gotten 3,000 calls. Eight women have joined and — by Muslim tradition — meet separately from men. At the latest of the group's weekly public meetings, which visitors and families of addicts attend, 60 people showed up.

While the trauma of Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait increased narcotics use, experts feel much of the drug abuse has its origin in a problem the country shares with other oil-rich, conservative Gulf societies — rich teenagers with little to do.

"Kuwait has a major drug problem," said British addiction expert Ian Rodger, who heads a team hired to improve treatment for drug users who end up — voluntarily or by court order — at the government's psychiatric hospital.

Mr. Rodger, a recovered addict himself, estimates 10 per cent of Kuwait's popula-

tion has misused alcohol, drugs, or prescription pills. The percentage is double that of the United Kingdom, he told the Associated Press.

One of Mr. Rodger's patients illustrates the problems that turn Kuwaiti teenagers to drugs. He said he started drinking alcohol abroad at 17 and then turned to smoking hashish at home as a rebellion against the stifling sameness of Gulf society.

"I wanted something different from the religious upbringing and the routine life. I wanted to get away from the world my family put me in," the patient said at the government drug ward in a derelict one-storey building. Now 27, he has been in and out of the addiction ward seven times.

Brig. Abdullah Fares, the Interior Ministry's head of criminal investigations, blamed the growing drug problem on indulgent parents.

"Family negligence is the cause," he said. "All a father cares about is to see his son

laughing and he gives him money."

But Brig. Fares also maintained that Iraq encouraged the spread of drugs during its seven-month occupation of Kuwait in 1991. He said narcotics smuggling has significantly increased since then.

"We used to seize two kilos of hashish a month, five at the most, and about half a kilo (1 pound) of heroin," he told the Associated Press. "In the last three years, we have been seizing around 50 kilos of hashish, and five to six kilos of heroin (a month)."

Officials refuse to discuss fully how and from where drugs and alcohol — also illegal under Kuwait's Islamic strictures — get into the country. Newspaper accounts say most drugs come from Asia and the smuggling is both by air and sea.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO

15:35 French Programmes
16:45 Tennis Men's Final (Live from Wimbledon)
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headline
19:35 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
20:30 Cinema: Cinema, Cinema
21:30 The Churchills
22:00 Ransome
22:30 News in English
22:30 One West Walkie
23:15 Sisters

PRAYER TIMES

04:07 Sunrise
05:38 Sunrise
12:42 Dhuhr
16:23 Asr
19:46 Maghrib
21:17 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swiffeth, Tel. 810740
Assumptions of God Church
Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terro Sancta Church Tel. 622369
Anglican Church Tel. 632826

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Temperatures are expected to rise today and tomorrow becoming about as high by 3-4 degrees centigrade and winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot and dry, winds northerly moderate to active, and seas calm.

Min/Max temp.

Amman.....20/25
Aqaba.....27/41
Deserts.....19/29
Jordan Valley.....26/41

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 31, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh.....551922
Dr. Rami Sukkar.....856457
Dr. Fadi Al Khadhi.....865456
Dr. Yousef Al Fajhi.....790104
First pharmacy.....661912
Fouk's pharmacy.....778336
Al Asena pharmacy.....637055
Najm's pharmacy.....621622
Al Salam pharmacy.....636739
Yacoub pharmacy.....644945
Shmeirani pharmacy.....637669
Najm pharmacy.....847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu.....281484
Al Qud's pharmacy.....1-1
ZARQA:

Dr. Fahd Jaber.....984549
Khalid's pharmacy.....985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....637111
Civil Defence Department.....661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue.....630341
Civil Defence Emergency.....199
Rescue Police.....192.621111.637777
Fire Brigade.....617101
Blood Bank.....775121
Highway Police.....843402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Dept.....630321
Shmeirani Hospital.....649131
University Hospital.....845845
Al-Muasher Hospital.....6672279
The Islamic, Abdali.....66612637
Al-Ahli, Abdali.....6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen.....77710173
Al-Bashir.....77511126
Army, Marka.....89161115
Queen Alia Hospital.....60224050
Anat Hospital.....674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery.....865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital.....09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital.....09/900560
Ibn Sina Hospital.....09/986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital.....09/990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hassan Medical Centre.....81381332
Khalid's Maternity.....64428116
Alkehl Maternity.....6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity.....642362
Malhas, J. Amman.....636140
Palestine, Shamsani.....607071
Shmeirani Hospital.....669131
University Hospital.....845845
Al-Muasher Hospital.....6672279
The Islamic, Abdali.....66612637
Al-Ahli, Abdali.....6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen.....77710173
Al-Bashir.....77511126
Army, Marka.....89161115
Queen Alia Hospital.....60224050
Anat Hospital.....674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery.....865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital.....09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital.....09/900560
Ibn Sina Hospital.....09/986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital.....09/990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital

(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital
(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital
(02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital
(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (57700)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:05 Bombay (RJ)
10:05 Doha, Riyadh (RJ)
10:15 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:20 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:25 Beirut (RJ)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:05 Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)
17:40 New York, Amsterdam

(RJ)
18:05 London (RJ)
18:50 London (RJ)
19:05 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
19:10 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
19:10 Athens (RJ)
20:10 Chicago, Detroit, Amsterdam (RJ)
20:20 Tunis (RJ)
20:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
20:40 Vienna (RJ)
20:40 Rome (RJ)
00:45 Beirut (RJ)
01:05 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights
12:00 Saman (IY)
12:00 Jeddah (SV)
13:25 Bahrain (GF)
15:20 Moscow (SU)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
21:35 Cairo (MS)
23:20 Istanbul (TK)
00:59 Cairo (MS)
02:15 London (BA)
07:20 London (BA)
07:20 Tel Aviv (LY)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:00 Madrid (RJ)
06:45 Beirut (RJ)

07:00 Larnaca (RJ)
10:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00 Tunis (RJ)
12:15 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
12:15 Vienna (RJ)
12:30 Rome (RJ)
12:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:20 Athens (RJ)
13:25 London (RJ)
21:00 New Delhi (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:25 Jeddah (RJ)
21:40 Damascus (RJ)
22:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:25 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
22:40 Bangkok (RJ)
23:50 Beirut (RJ)
01:50 Abu Dhabi, Jakarta (RJ)
02:00 Saman (RJ)

Other Flights
07:00 Beirut (ME)
07:55 London (BA)
13:00 Saman (IY)
13:30 Jeddah (SV)
14:25 Doha (GF)
16:35 Moscow (SU)
22:25 Cairo (MS)
00:45 Amsterdam (KL)
02:00 Cairo (MS)
07:00 Beirut (ME)
07:55 London (BA)
08:15 Tel Aviv (LY)

Queen opens 17th Arab Children's Congress

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegations from 13 countries are participating in the 17th annual Arab Children's Congress (ACC), inaugurated Saturday by Her Majesty Queen Noor at the Roman Amphitheatre in Amman, a Royal Court statement said.

The opening ceremony included a musical play entitled "Al Sawana," folkloric music by the Jordan Armed Forces band and the ACC song "Watan Waheed," sung by the participating children.

Al Sawana won a silver medal in Egypt's Festival of Arab Television and Radio Production, according to the statement.

The 10-day conference, entitled "Challenges and Ambitions of Future Arab Generations," features a diverse programme of activities which includes brainstorming sessions with specialists on the role of media in promoting Arab culture and cross-cultural understanding as well as visits to Jordan's archaeological and cultural sites, the statement said.

There will also be an "Arab Night" function where participants will present their countries' folkloric dances as well as a series of drama and art workshops on the congress' theme to culminate in a play performed by the children at the closing ceremony.

The congress, according to Director Lina Al Tal Butayneh, is a "true pan-Arab event in which children from throughout the Arab World are participating, regardless of the differences in their countries' gross national

product and standards of living."

She announced that the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) received distinction for its projects and activities which serve the well-being of the Arab child.

The award was announced during the celebration of the Higher Arab Council in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The Arab Children's Congress was initiated by the Queen following the 1980 Arab Summit Conference in Amman, according to the statement.

It is to unite children from throughout the Arab World in a programme specifically designed to promote understanding, tolerance and solidarity.

During two weeks of visiting, learning and cultural interaction in Jordan, these Arab children are encouraged to more fully appreciate contemporary regional and global challenges facing the Arab nation as well as the ancient historical and cultural bonds shared by Arabs.

The Queen, who was accompanied by Senator Leila Sharaf, was received by the prime minister's wife Mrs. Jamie Majali, Minister of Higher Education Munther Masri, Minister of Social Development Dr. Mohammed Mamsar, Advisor to the Queen in 'am Mufli, Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Executive Director Yaser El Tal and members of the NHF Executive Committee.

Cabinet endorses 'shopping month'

AMMAN (Petra) — Upon the recommendation of Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji, the Cabinet Saturday approved the organisation of a 'shopping month' in Jordan.

The event will coincide with the 1998 Jerash Festival for Culture and Art.

According to a statement, issued by the Cabinet subsequent to the meeting, a national task force will group prominent individuals from the private sector to oversee the arrangement.

The shopping month is expected to follow the Lebanese model in which commodity prices were reduced by 50 per cent to attract both local buyers and tourists.

Minister of Labour Saleh Khasawneh reported to the Cabinet on his talks with Egyptian officials on labour-related issues as well as the employment of Egyptian workers in the Kingdom.

The group also covered procedures for issuing work permits to guest workers.

According to Dr. Khasawneh, in the last four months his ministry issued 125,000 work permits to guest workers most of whom are Egyptian nationals.

The minister announced that he will soon halt the process of issuing permits as, he said, the local labour market is in no more need of guest workers.

The Cabinet also ratified decisions taken by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee meeting in Cairo earlier this month.

These dealt with agreements in economic, trade, tourist and energy fields.

Minister of Justice Riyad Shabaa detailed the recent visit to Jordan by the crown prince of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashed Al Maktoum.

Dubai and Jordan will exchange expertise in judicial affairs, he confirmed.

The Cabinet also formed the Jordanian delegation to the U.N. General Assembly's 52nd meeting, due to open in New York on September 16. The delegation will be led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Fayez Tarawneh.

The Cabinet approved government department plans and programmes for 1997.

These will require an endorsement by Royal Decree before actual implementation.

Traffic surveillance to be increased

AMMAN (J.T.) — In order

to lessen the number of road accidents and violations in Jordan, traffic surveillance on all roads will be increased, Director of the Public Security Department (PSD) Nasouh Muhieddin announced Saturday.

According to a PSD statement, throughout the Kingdom, police officers, holding the rank of captain and above, will be authorised to monitor traffic and take appropriate measures against violators.

Each office can issue fines

at the time of violation, and officers who are off duty can report the licence plate number of any offending vehicle to the Traffic Department.

Last April, the Traffic Department reported that in 1996, a total of 33,784 road accidents were recorded in Jordan.

These were responsible for the deaths of 532 people and the injury of 15,375 others. The figures demonstrated a 16.6 per cent increase in road accidents over those of the

previous year.

The Traffic Department also reported Saturday that 751 road accidents occurred in Jordan during the second week of July, resulting in the death of 20 persons and the injury of 40 others.

According to the department, 560 of these accidents involved vehicle collisions, a figure which corresponds to 74.9 per cent of the total number.

Sixty one per cent of these accidents were reported to have occurred in Amman.

Indian delegation to participate in chemical company inauguration

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-member delegation, led by Indian Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers M. Arunachalam, will be visiting the Kingdom at the invitation of the Jordanian government to participate in the inauguration of the Indo-Jordan Chemical Company Ltd. at Eshtidiya, according to an embassy of India statement.

HRH Crown Prince Hassan will open the project on July 21, the statement said.

During the visit, the Indian delegation will call on His Majesty King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan, and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

A meeting is also scheduled with Minister of Industry and Trade Hani Mulki to discuss prospects for further strengthening trade ties, the statement said.

The execution of the Indo-Jordan Chemical Company marks the successful implementation of the joint venture agreement between Indian private sector company M/S Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation Ltd. (SPIC), the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the Riyadh-based Arab Investment Company (AIC).

The entire phosphoric acid production, totalling 224,000 tonnes per annum, will be exported to India under an eleven-year buy back agreement.

The \$170 million project is the largest joint venture project in Jordan as it is the biggest Indian joint venture abroad.

PNA charges three guards with terror, collaboration

(Continued from page 1)

ty forces."

But precise details of their crimes were only given in secret during a closed part of Saturday's session. The court was to continue Wednesday.

Palestinian security sources said the three Force 17 members, Fawzi Sawalheh, Khalid Uthmanneh, and Taher Jamlan, along with Nasser Hamadneh, a

construction worker, were acting under orders by Israeli intelligence in a bid "to wreck the reputation of Palestinian police."

The gang, wearing masks and carrying M16 automatic rifles, stopped several Palestinians north of Nablus in their cars or fields and then tortured them, the sources said.

At times, they told their victims they belonged to the Islamist Hamas, while

other times they said they were members of the Palestinian self-rule security forces, the sources charged.

"They have confessed that they committed their crimes under orders from Shin Bet [Israel's internal intelligence service]," Colonel Jihad Misaimi, head of criminal investigations for Nablus police, said earlier this week.

Col. Misaimi is sought

by Israel for allegedly ordering attacks against Jewish settlers in the northern West Bank, after it last week arrested three policemen under his command.

The Israeli army said the three policemen were on their way to committing an attack against the settlement of Har Braha, south of Nablus. They have arrested a fourth police officer from the town of

Tulkarem in connection with the case.

But Col. Misaimi said the arrests and the accusations against him were "in revenge" for his forces' arrest of the gang allegedly run by Israel.

Israel has also accused the head of Palestinian Police, Ghazi Jibali, of involvement in the attacks and has demanded Mr. Arafat rein in his security forces.

Premier to visit self-rule areas

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali is scheduled to visit the Palestinian self-rule areas today for a meeting with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and senior assistants in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi announced Saturday.

Dr. Majali told AFP Saturday that he would make a brief visit to the town of Ramallah to meet the Palestinian leader.

Their talks are aimed at "strengthening Jordanian-Palestinian relations and continuing consultations on the latest developments in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations," which have been frozen since mid-March, the premier stated.

Dr. Majali said he would not propose any particular Jordanian initiative to unblock the talks, saying his government supports an Egyptian mediation bid, according to AFP.

The two sides are expected to sign an agreement regarding health cooperation, treatment of Palestinian patients in Jordan and primary health care.

The premier will be

accompanied on his visit by Minister of Health and Medical Care Ahsraf Kundi and Minister of Industry and Trade Hani Mulki, according to Dr. Mutawi.

Dr. Majali Saturday met with visiting Syrian Minister of Industry Ahmad Nizamuddin to discuss ways of stimulating economic and trade relations between Syria and Jordan while increasing the volume of trade exchanged between the two countries.

Jordanian-Syrian relations are based on mutual respect and Jordan is eager to bolster ties between the two countries, the prime minister stated.

Preparations must be initiated in order to convene a Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee meeting as soon as possible, he added.

Earlier Saturday, Dr. Mulki and his Syrian counterpart co-chaired the general assembly meeting of the Jordan-Syria Industry Company and approved of its closing accounts for the 1995-1996 fiscal year.

According to documents studied in the meeting, the company's revenues stood at JD 940,000 in 1995 and JD 697,000 in 1996.

At the meeting, Dr.

Mulki described the joint company as having proved itself to be a successful example of inter-Arab cooperation.

The company has been producing white cement in Jordan and carpeting in Syria.

Mr. Nizamuddin affirmed that the two countries are currently introducing new production lines in the two firms and are conducting feasibility studies on potential products.

The joint company serves as a symbol of inter-Arab cooperation at a time in which the Arab World is seeking to establish a common market, he added.

Subsequent to the meeting, Dr. Mulki announced that the Syrian government has decided to exempt imports of white cement from all customs duties.

The minister confirmed that he had received a telephone call from the Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Imadi, informing him of the Syrian government's decision.

The mandate is effective immediately, he added.

Syria used to levy a tax of \$11 on each tonne of

white cement imported from Jordan.

Last year, Syria imported 20,000 tonnes of white cement from Jordan, according to Dr. Mulki.

The Jordanian-Syrian higher committee previously passed a decision stipulating that Syria import up to 60,000 tonnes of white cement from Jordan, however, customs used to restrict imports, he explained.

The current Syrian resolution will increase Jordan's white cement exports to Syria and help adjust the balance of trade which currently favours the latter.

Upon his welcome to the Syrian minister, who arrived in Amman Friday, Dr. Mulki affirmed that Jordan will maintain coordination with Syria and work for the creation of an Arab common market as well.

The two countries are eager to promote the common market to enable the Arab World to meet the challenges of the 21st century as well as competition between global economic blocs, he added.

Conference to discuss Islamic solutions

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bait Foundation) will Tuesday open its 11th conference under the theme "Islam and present day social problems" at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

Al al Bait Foundation President Nassereddin Assad Saturday stated that the four-day meeting, to continue at the Regency Palace Hotel, will be held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein.

The conference will focus on addressing problems and challenges facing society in a way consistent with Islam and also aims at further cooperation among Muslim thinkers, he added.

Eighteen research papers will be reviewed by 75 delegates from 29 countries, according to Dr. Assad.

These will tackle issues facing Muslim immigrant families in Europe and the United States, Islamic pedagogy, the effect of the media on children, refugee issues, children's rights, juvenile delinquency and foreseeable challenges of 21st century.

Al al Bait Foundation's meetings are held biennially and attended by foundation members as well as scholars and experts on Islam and issues facing the Islamic world.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURES

*"The Concerns of Journalists in the Arab World" by Dr. Awatif Abdul Rahman at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabel Amman at 6:30 p.m.

*"Wadi Fidan Archaeological Project" by Tom Levy and Russell Adams at the Friends of Archaeology Center (Tel. 846-117) at 7:00 p.m.

*"Garden Plants That Can Stand Drought" by Subhi Rahmani at the Jordan Environmental Society, Shmeisani at 5:00 p.m. (Tel. 699844).

EXHIBITIONS

*Paintings and ceramics sculptures by Arab artists at the "Origins" Gallery, Shmeisani (Tel. 681303) until July 31.

*Paintings by Hani Al Bouni at the Royal Cultural Centre, until July 24.



Relatives of Jordanian soldier Ahmed Dakamseh, convicted of the manslaughter of seven Israeli schoolgirls in March, shout anti-Israeli slogans outside the military court in Amman July 19. The court sentenced Mr. Dakamseh to life imprisonment with hard labour (Reuters Photo)

Cambodia's Hun Sen turns down ASEAN mediation

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen Saturday turned down an ASEAN offer to mediate in his dispute with rival First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told reporters that Mr. Hun Sen's opposition meant the ASEAN mission to the warring Cambodian parties was finished.

He appealed for an end to armed hostilities and all other violence in Cambodia and expressed the hope that general elections set for May 1998 would go ahead as scheduled.

"At our meeting with Hun Sen, we were given quite a clear indication that His Excellency Hun Sen believes that ASEAN at this stage should not contribute to finding a solution and that they feel that they themselves would find a solution in accordance with the constitution and other relevant laws," Mr. Alatas said.

"If these efforts were not to yield results, then they would ask for intervention of his majesty the king as head of state."

"ASEAN will only assist in trying to contribute if all sides want that. This is why

as of this moment, our efforts stop and we will return and report to the ASEAN foreign ministers," Mr. Alatas said.

Phnom Penh was the last stop for the ASEAN team — which also included Foreign Ministers Prachub Chaiyasarn of Thailand and Domingo Siazou of the Philippines — in a bid to help end the turmoil gripping Cambodia.

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) decided at a special meeting last week to postpone Cambodia's entry following street fighting between supporters of the rival premiers in Phnom Penh July 5-6.

Prince Ranariddh, who was abroad at the time, was effectively ousted when Mr. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP) forces overwhelmed the Prince's royalist FUNCINPEC troops.

The meeting sent the three foreign ministers on a round of consultations in which they obtained the agreement of King Norodom Sihanouk and of Prince Ranariddh for ASEAN mediation.

"It's clear that with the end of our mission at this stage we cannot predict what the next steps are for ASEAN to take," Mr. Alatas

said.

"We have tried to fulfill our mission as best and as fast as we can and now it is up to the ASEAN foreign ministers and ultimately the ASEAN member governments to decide," he added.

He declined to speculate on what action ASEAN might take.

ASEAN currently groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Burma and Laos are to be admitted next week as scheduled; despite the postponement of Cambodia's entry.

Meanwhile, troops under Mr. Hun Sen have moved into the northern town of Samrong, the last town held by royalist forces loyal to the country's ousted first prime minister, officials said Saturday.

The troops arrived peacefully and negotiations with royalist forces were under way in the town, near the border with Thailand, the government officials said.

"We don't occupy it completely. Up to now we are negotiating with them to hand over their weapons," secretary of state for information, Khieu Kanbarith, told Reuters.

"I can confirm that our men are there and they got

there without fighting," he said.

Defence Ministry spokesman Chum Sambath said talks were underway with the royalist forces' main commander in the area, General Khann Savoeun.

"The government has a policy to appeal to our brothers to come back," he said.

Mr. Hun Sen's forces and those loyal to Prince Ranariddh began fighting in northern Cambodia near the town of Siem Reap, home to the Angkor Wat Temple complex, soon after but the royalist forces were swiftly pushed back towards Samrong.

In several other areas of the country, Mr. Hun Sen's forces and royalist troops negotiated local ceasefire deals.

A senior member of Mr. Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC party said in Bangkok Friday that armed resistance to Mr. Hun Sen was a last resort.

"The prince does not want to have bloodshed. The first solution is to get Mr. Hun Sen to negotiate," royalist member of parliament Ahmad Yahya said.

"If we don't achieve this, as a final solution we would have to create a resistance movement," he said.

U.S. soldier injured in Serb revenge blast

SARAJEVO (R) — A U.S. soldier suffered minor injuries in a bombing attack overnight as Bosnian Serb hardliners kept up a retaliation campaign for a Western crackdown on indicted war criminals.

NATO said the man was cut by flying glass after an explosive device was lobbed at a car parked outside offices used by NATO military observers in the Serb-controlled town of Doboj.

It was the first injury caused by six consecutive days of small-scale explosions although another U.S. soldier was slightly hurt when he was attacked with a sickle.

Three other explosions were reported overnight elsewhere in Bosnia's Serb entity, NATO spokesman Major John Blakeley told Reuters.

A "grenade-like device" was thrown at a car park for heavy vehicles at a NATO base in Mrkonjic Grad. No one was injured.

In the northwest town of Prijedor, two hand grenades detonated after midnight near apartments of international police monitors, causing minor damage.

Serb leaders are outraged over a NATO swoop last week against two Serbs wanted for war crimes.

British soldiers detained and extradited one suspected war criminal in Prijedor last week and shot dead another who resisted and opened fire. Both men were indicted by the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal in the Netherlands.

NATO supreme commander General Wesley Clark said Friday that Serb retaliatory attacks would not intimidate the alliance-led peace force in Bosnia.

Gen. Clark made clear during a visit to Sarajevo that the alliance would not shrink from a tougher stance towards fugitives wanted for war crimes despite a wave of low-level violence in revenge for the NATO swoop.

"We've seen some efforts by some in Sprska (the Serb Republic) to intimidate their own people," he told reporters. "I can tell you NATO is not going to be intimidated by any of this and we are going to follow through on our own mandate."

Gen. Clark suggested that the NATO raid last week

against the two Serb suspects had rattled nationalist leaders loyal to former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, himself an indicted war criminal.

"We must be having an impact on Karadzic and the rest of the war criminals there or there would not be a response," he said.

Gen. Clark met the Muslim and Croat members of Bosnia's peacetime presidency but the Serb member, hard-line nationalist Momcilo Krajisnik, failed to attend.

Serb leaders have boycotted government meetings in the capital Sarajevo since last week's raid, saying NATO can no longer be trusted to provide for the security of their staff.

Western mediators have dismissed the boycott as a "non-sense."

Gen. Clark also held talks with officers in the NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) a week after British soldiers pounced on the two suspects in the northwest Prijedor region.

Bosnian Serb authorities alleged that the extradited suspect, Milan Kovacevic, had suffered a stroke while in custody and demanded his release.

Tribunal officials confirmed that Mr. Kovacevic was undergoing medical tests by Dutch doctors but declined to discuss details of his ailment.

The operation in which Mr. Kovacevic was arrested marked a shift in tactics for NATO which had previously ruled out going after suspects unless peacekeeping troops stumbled upon them.

Diplomats said threats and minor explosions were part of an attempt by hardline nationalists loyal to Mr. Karadzic to test the resolve and unity of Western governments, which have often disagreed over how to treat the war crimes issue.

Last week's raid set off intense speculation in the local press throughout former Yugoslavia about whom the tribunal might have charged in sealed indictments and who might be arrested next.

Some Croatian newspapers alleged that Croat suspects in Bosnia would soon be snatched and charged for crimes committed against Muslim forces in central and southern Bosnia.

Clinton supports broad effort on Georgia conflict

WASHINGTON (R) — Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze obtained U.S. President Bill Clinton's backing Friday for an expanded international effort to try to help end Georgia's conflict with Abkhaz separatists.

Mr. Shevardnadze told reporters after talking to Mr. Clinton for nearly an hour on a wide array of subjects that the United States will "actively participate" in a broader approach to reaching a peaceful end to the trouble in Abkhazia.

Georgia lost Abkhazia, a lush subtropical Black Sea region in the northwest of the mountainous republic, when its disorganised military was driven out in 1993 after a year of fighting that killed more than 10,000

people. Abkhazia remains Mr. Shevardnadze's main political headache after three years of Russian-led peace talks with the separatists, who insist on more autonomy than Georgia is willing to tolerate.

A joint written statement issued by the two leaders said the United States and Georgia support the early resumption of negotiations on Abkhazia.

It said this would be under the auspices of the United Nations, with Russia as facilitator and with the participation of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) nations and other friends of Georgia including France, Germany, Britain and the United States.

"President Clinton reaffirmed U.S. support for Georgia's territorial integrity and a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Abkhazia," the statement said.

The 68-year-old Shevardnadze said the first meeting under the new format will be convened in Geneva very soon.

While in the United States he also plans a meeting with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan in New York to discuss Abkhazia.

Georgia says a contingent of 1,500 Russian peacekeepers must begin leaving Abkhazia after July 31 if Moscow does not agree that they do more, including patrolling a wider part of the province and helping Georgian refugees resettle.

Mr. Shevardnadze, who as

Soviet foreign minister played a leading role in the end of the cold war and is a familiar figure in Washington, said he would like to see the United Nations approve a large-scale peacekeeping operation for Abkhazia.

"Our request (to the U.N.) is that the operation should be a large-scale operation, and multilateral and multinational, with the participation of the Russians," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

Otherwise, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Shevardnadze discussed Georgia's efforts to strengthen regional cooperation in the Caucasus, including its strong support for a pipeline that would channel Caspian Sea oil to European markets.

Russian Mir crew rests, repairs delayed

KOROLYOV (R) — The crew of Russia's damaged Mir space station, back in control of their craft after a self-inflicted energy supply crisis, were given a day of rest Saturday, officials said.

An official from the U.S. space agency NASA said that Russians Vasily Tsibilyev and Alexander Lazutkin and American Michael Foale would only do some minor repairs during the day.

"They will be spending

most of time resting except they are working on two gyroscopes," Kathleen Maliga told reporters at Mission Control outside Moscow referring to devices that keep Mir's solar panels angled towards the Sun.

The station's 12 gyroscopes went off and the crippled craft briefly lost orientation when one of the crew — officials will not say who — pulled out a cable, causing a vital computer to crash Thursday.

Ms. Maliga said the crew restarted seven gyroscopes out of 12 on board Friday and were working on two more Saturday.

It takes eight or nine gyroscopes, which use no fuel at all, to maintain the orientation of the panels, she added. After the computer crash the the panels were being held in alignment by electronically controlled motors.

A spokesman for Mission Control said that the power

supply to the station has been resumed.

"The situation on board is normal and the energy has been fully re-supplied," Vladimir Tachilo said.

The computer mishap added to the latest string of misfortunes haunting the crew of the ageing space laboratory which had started when a Progress cargo craft holed the Spektr scientific module on June 25 during a training docking.



Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas (2nd from right), flanked by Thai Foreign Minister Prachub Chaiyasarn (right) and Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazou (2nd from left), addresses Cambodia's Second Prime Minister Hun Sen during a meeting in Phnom Penh Saturday. The envoys from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) arrived in the Cambodian capital for talks with Mr. Hun Sen (Renter photo)

Afghan Taliban reject peace talks until prisoners' release

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The supreme leader of Afghanistan's powerful Taliban faction Saturday ruled out any peace talks with opponents until the release of an estimated 2,000 Islamic militiamen detained in the north.

"There can be no talks or a ceasefire" with the opposition alliance until "our men are freed," Mullah Mohammad Umar told the private Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) in a telephone interview.

"Our men were taken prisoner in blatant violation of political norms and human values after having been invited to the north for talks under a clear understanding," Mr. Umar told AIP from Kandahar in southwest Afghanistan.

The Taliban soliders were arrested in Mazar-i-Sharif in May by the forces of the northern strongman General Abdul Malik after he broke an alliance with the Islamic militia.

Hundreds of Islamic militiamen were killed in fighting and the Taliban were driven out. The Taliban prisoners include Foreign Minister Mullah Mohammad Ghaus, state bank Governor Ehsanullah and several other officials.

Mr. Umar told the Pakistan-based AIP he had information that Mr. Ghaus and other detained senior Taliban officials were "alive."

The Taliban chief, who rarely speaks to the press, vowed the Islamic movement would ultimately prevail over the opposition and capture the northern provinces.

"Our military position is strong," Mr. Umar said, claiming the Taliban had already secured ground in northern Takhar province, a stronghold of former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

He admitted that Pakistani youth from religious schools had joined the Taliban, but stressed they did so "on their own because they wanted to fight for Islam against the forces of evil."

"If such volunteers come to fight against tyranny and evil we cannot turn them back," he said.

"Neither the Islamic movement had invited them nor were they sent by the Pakistan government," the Taliban chief said, adding "there is not a single Pakis-

tani army or militia soldier in the ranks of the Taliban."

The Taliban seized Kabul in September last year and control two-thirds of the country, with eight provinces in the control of the opposition alliance, which includes Mr. Rabbani, Gen. Malik and Shiite Hezb-i-Wahdat faction.

Pakistan, which has recognised the Taliban government, has been trying to start talks between the rival sides under the auspices of the United Nations with a view to reaching a power-sharing formula.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Boroujerdi, who ended a two-day visit here Friday, discussed the peace efforts with senior Pakistani officials.

It was agreed the two countries would use their influence with Afghan factions to persuade them to hold talks for a peaceful settlement, officials here said.

Mr. Boroujerdi, whose country supports the anti-Taliban alliance, also met U.N. special mediator Norbert Holl in Islamabad.

Mr. Holl said in Kabul the warring sides, in particular the Taliban, lacked willingness to make peace.

Millionaire Goldsmith dies after battling cancer

PARIS (R) — Anglo-French entrepreneur Sir James Goldsmith, cunning corporate raider and anti-European crusader, died surrounded by his family in the small hours of Saturday after battling with cancer, his lawyer said.

The 64-year-old millionaire's friend and attorney Samuel Pizar told Reuters that Goldsmith, who failed in an attempt to win a parliamentary seat in Britain's May general election, died of a heart attack at his home near Malaga in southern Spain.

"Sir James Goldsmith died of a heart attack in Spain tonight. Sir James was suffering from cancer," Mr. Pizar said from his Paris office.

"It happened in the night, in the small hours of the morning. He was with his family at the time," Mr. Pizar said, refusing to give any more details or to say whether Goldsmith's daughter, wife of former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan, was with him in Spain.

Goldsmith first suffered pancreatic cancer in 1985 but a recurrence was kept secret when he led his Referendum Party in the British election campaign. He was reported to be critically ill in a hospital near Paris early last month.

The Referendum Party, campaigning against further European Union integration, won more than 800,000 votes but failed to win a seat in the election, which resulted in a landslide victory for Tony Blair's Labour Party.

Goldsmith lost his deposit after running against pro-



Sir James Goldsmith, billionaire leader of Britain's Referendum Party, died of a heart attack in Spain in the early hours of Saturday after a long battle against cancer (Reuter photo)

European Conservative David Mellor, who was also defeated.

The financier masterminded million-dollar Wall Street deals and made a vast fortune as one of the most cool and astute corporate raiders of his time, with a 1986 raid on the United States' Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company among his most notorious coups.

He amassed millions of dollars by buying into companies then selling the stock for big profits after takeover speculation had boosted share prices.

Renowned for his keen sense of market timing, Goldsmith's investment motto was: "If you see a bandwagon, it's too late."

Such was his touch that even a casual expression of his interest in a company was enough to discomfit a boardroom.

He used a significant part of his personal fortune to campaign against free trade and a single European cur-

rency, funding France's maverick Philippe de Villiers in the 1994 European Parliament election, which got him a seat in the Euro-Assembly, and paying for his own Referendum Party.

Goldsmith's career was marked by a love-hate relationship with the media, and in 1976 he filed 63 libel suits against British satirical magazine Private Eye, which nicknamed him "Sir Jams" because of his grocery empire, the British Cavenham Food Group.

As an interventionist owner of French magazine L'Express, he turned the weekly into a foe of the Socialist government which came to power in 1981.

James Michael Goldsmith was born in Paris on Feb. 26, 1933, into an old European banking family of an Anglo-Jewish father and a Franco-Catholic mother, and was educated at Eton.

He was married three times and fathered three sons and three daughters.

Burmese opposition leader marks Martyrs Day

RANGOON (R) — Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi marked a quiet appearance at an official ceremony Saturday to commemorate the 50th anniversary of her father's assassination.

Dressed in a black traditional longyi (sarong), a white blouse and black shawl, Ms. Suu Kyi and four young women placed three baskets of flowers at her father's tomb at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in central Rangoon.

Ms. Suu Kyi, who has appeared in public since she was injured by a military back in May, knelt down to pay respect to the late traditional Buddhist style before leaving the ceremony held each year in remembrance of the July 19, 1947 slaying of Ms. Suu Kyi's father and eight others.

Government officials and relatives of the other eight martyrs also attended the ceremony.

Ms. Suu Kyi's father General Aung San, the architect of Burma's independence from Britain, was gunned down along with six of his cabinet colleagues and two others while they were holding a meeting six months before the country's independence.

Ms. Suu Kyi arrived at the mausoleum in a government car and was accompanied as in the past two years by Colonel Than Thun, the man who used to be the liaison officer between the country's military government and Ms. Suu Kyi, while she was under house arrest.

Ms. Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Laureate and 52-year-old leader of the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD), was released from six years of house arrest in July 1995.

Her movements have been severely restricted over the past year following renewed government crackdowns on her opposition movement.

But a key step was taken Thursday towards improving relations between the ruling military and the NLD when a senior general in the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) met for talks with NLD Chairman Aung Shwe and two other party leaders.

It was the first time any senior SLORC member had met NLD officials since Ms. Suu Kyi was released from house arrest.

Ms. Suu Kyi did not attend the meeting, and the NLD said the talks do not constitute true dialogue until she is included. The talks dealt with recent SLORC allegations that the NLD was involved in terrorist activities and had received foreign financial aid.

Ms. Suu Kyi's elder brother, Aung San Oo, came from the United States to attend the ceremony and laid a wreath at the tomb of his father shortly before Ms. Suu Kyi arrived.

It was the first time since Ms. Suu Kyi was released that her brother had attended the ceremony.

But NLD sources and a friend of Mr. Aung San Oo said Ms. Suu Kyi's brother had not met the democracy leader and had declined an invitation to attend a ceremony at her house to commemorate their father's death.

"Aung San Oo came to Myanmar (Burma) at the request of the SLORC and is staying at a guest house arranged by the SLORC," said a close friend of Mr. Aung San Oo. "He and his sister haven't met each other since he arrived in Yangon (Rangoon) and as far as I know he doesn't have a plan to see her during his stay."

Security was tighter than usual around Ms. Suu Kyi's University Avenue home Saturday. Barricades blocking access to her house were manned by more officials and there were more not police nearby.

World News

dead. 3 missing

computer man has

disaster suspect

Back on disa



Gulfport, Mississippi, resident Carolyn Hosli, with her son Tyler, is startled by a storm surge caused by Hurricane Danny as it approaches the Gulf Coast Friday. The slow-moving hurricane has caused heavy rains and some damage from Louisiana to Florida, and is expected to hit land within 24 hours (Reuters photo)

1 dead, 3 missing as hurricane hits U.S. coast

MIAMI (AFP) — At least one person has died and three others are missing as authorities along the Gulf of Mexico coast of the United States prepared for the landfall of Hurricane Danny.

The hurricane's 120-kilometre an hour winds brought torrential rain to the coasts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and western Florida as it moved slowly eastward.

Police late Friday found the body of an unidentified man in a damaged sailboat in Fort Morgan, a commu-

nity just south of the port city of Mobile, Alabama.

The U.S. Coast Guard early Saturday continued to search for two people reported lost in a boat off the coast of Mississippi. One sailor was reported missing near Panama City, Florida.

The hurricane was expected to reach the mainland at a point close to the state line between Mississippi and Alabama at around 9 a.m. (1300 GMT).

The sluggish hurricane has been located just off the coasts of four states for the

past 24 hours, erratically inching towards the coastline, the National Hurricane Centre in Miami said.

Around 2 a.m. Saturday (0600 GMT) the hurricane's eye was approximately 56 kilometres southeast from Mobile.

Danny is expected to leave between 10 and 20 inches of rain in its wake in the coming days, according to National Hurricane Centre spokesman Miles Lawrence.

"While some additional erratic motion can be

expected during the next few hours, a gradual turn towards the northeast is expected," Hurricane Centre officials reported.

Late Friday Alabama Governor Bob James activated his state's national guard — a reserve military force under the command of state governors — to help in rescue and cleanup efforts.

Danny was upgraded from a tropical storm late Thursday over the Gulf of Mexico as it approached the U.S. coast.

Jupiter moon has atmosphere, space probe finds

PASADENA (R) — The space probe Galileo has found evidence that Jupiter's moon, Europa, may have an atmosphere.

Scientists reported Friday.

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory here said Galileo, which is exploring Jupiter and some of its moons, discovered that Europa has an ionosphere, a strong indicator that the icy moon also has an atmosphere.

An ionosphere is a layer of

charged particles such as ions and electrons found in the upper levels of atmospheres.

"While this discovery does not relate to the question of possible life on Europa, it does show us there is a surface process occurring there, and Europa is not just some dead hunk of material," said Arvidas Kliore, the lead Galileo investigator.

Some scientists believe Europa could nurture life

because of the presence of water on the Jovian moon in addition to oxygen.

Mr. Kliore, who also reported his findings in Friday's issue of Science magazine, said Europa's ionosphere was discovered during a series of experiments carried out between December 1996 and February, when Europa was positioned between the spacecraft and Earth.

Measurements of the

Galileo radio signal received by the Deep Space Network in Goldstone, California, and Canberra, Australia, showed that the radio beam was refracted by a layer of charged particles that make up Europa's ionosphere.

Another Jovian moon, Io, was found to have an ionosphere in 1973 by the Pioneer 10 space probe. The finding was confirmed recently by Galileo, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory said.

Versace suspect eludes police in U.S. manhunt

MIAMI BEACH (AFP) — The prime suspect in the slaying of Italian couturier Gianni Versace was ahead of one of the biggest man-hunts in U.S. history Saturday as his ashes were laid to rest in his hometown.

The ashes were placed in a chapel Friday on the shore of Lake Como after a short religious ceremony attended by the designer's closest relatives.

Police here remained tight-lipped as they continued to hunt for suspected serial murderer Andrew Phillip Cunanan, convicted the killer has remained in the area.

"If he's here, again that's another big mistake of his," said Florida Department of Law Enforcement Agent John Coffey. "He's made major mistakes, but I'd prefer not to comment on them at this time because we'd like him to continue making them."

Versace, 50, the creative force behind a family-owned clothing empire that includes more than 100 boutiques around the world, was shot twice in the head

on the front steps of his mansion early Tuesday as he returned from buying magazines at a nearby newsstand.

Authorities have ruled out robbery as a motive for his killing. "It did not appear to be a robbery," said Miami Beach Police spokesman Alfred Boza.

Mr. Boza said the Versace task force is "prioritising the leads" from the public which have been pouring in at the rate of 400 every 24 hours.

The hundreds of sightings of Mr. Cunanan, a 27-year-old handsome and preppy from San Diego, have included those of three reporters assigned to cover the investigation, Mr. Boza added.

In their pursuit of Mr. Cunanan, who heads the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List, police have handed out more than 2,000 leaflets showing how the suspect can alter his appearance.

"Until we have another credible sighting of him in another city or another part of the country, we're going to assume he's here," said

FBI spokeswoman Anne Figueroa.

Mr. Cunanan is already wanted for four murders in three states since April. Criminal experts have described him as a "sniper killer," preoccupied with finding a next victim once he has committed his last murder.

Police say he stole a 1995 Jeep Cherokee belonging to David Madison, one of his earlier suspected murder victims, as well as a 1994 Lexus belonging to Lee Miglin, a wealthy Chicagoan who was also linked to Mr. Cunanan.

Mr. Cunanan then allegedly stole a red 1993 Chevrolet pickup belonging to William Reed, a New Jersey cemetery caretaker who was apparently murdered just for his vehicle.

The red pickup was found after Versace's murder on July 15 in a nearby garage. Police searched the truck and found Mr. Cunanan's passport along with a Bank of America check imprinted with his name.

"Versace's on a list, especially with stolen cars,"

Ms. Figueroa said. "It's not like we think (Mr. Cunanan) is going to go to Hollywood Toyota and buy a new car — so we check everything out."

The price on Mr. Cunanan's head totals \$55,000 after Dade County Mayor Alex Penelas Thursday announced a \$45,000 reward for his arrest. A New York gay and lesbian group previously announced a \$10,000 reward.

Mr. Cunanan was identified as the prime suspect in the Versace slaying after police discovered a red pickup truck linked to previous murder victims a block away from the Ocean Drive mansion.

On Friday, nearly 700 people packed St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church here for a memorial mass in honor of Versace, who brought his landmark Mediterranean-style house six years ago.

"No one else so influenced the city in so short a time," Miami Beach Mayor Seymour Glick said in a brief eulogy.

Poles back on disaster alert in case of new flood

WARSAW (R) — Stormy rain over areas still reeling from two weeks of deadly floods put Poland back on disaster alert Saturday.

"We must expect there will be a new flood in those same regions where it happened before," spokesman Krzysztof Pomes of Poland's official Crisis Committee told Reuters late Friday.

As rain drenched the western third of Poland throughout the day, weather forecasters predicted it would continue into the weekend. The crucial question was: How much and where?

"As for the effects, we

will see in the next hours," Mr. Pomes said, adding that although the rain was lighter than downpours two weeks ago which unleashed the floods, the soaked ground and swollen rivers were less able to absorb the excess.

The lesser intensity of the rain gave hope that Poland might be spared even a return of the floods that killed 48 people swamped 4,000 square kilometres and hit a thousand villages and towns including the cities of Wroclaw and Opole.

But bitter experience meant that this time the government and hundreds of thousands of Poles in the

affected areas were taking few chances.

Disaster control officials and people who had been reluctant to accept evacuation before were now more ready to leave their homes while flood defence preparations were better organised.

Citizens of riverside communities in the affluent south and southwest resumed building sandbag barriers.

Prime Minister Wladzimir Cimoszewicz, accused by the opposition for failing to reassure people and mobilise effective action at the start of the deluge, broadcast to the nation

on television late Friday to set out aid measures.

"On the proposal of the government, more than 50 laws have been amended — all so that aid should reach you quickly and without unnecessary bureaucratic procedures," he said.

Apart from seeing through parliament the new laws, including ones allowing higher government borrowing and giving handouts to devastated households, the government has deployed more than 20,000 troops and set up an emergency communications system to replace one that failed last time.

IRA calls new truce for Sinn Fein place in talks

BELFAST (R) — The Irish Republic Army (IRA) Saturday announced a new truce to its 28-year war against British rule over Northern Ireland which will take effect at noon Sunday and allow its Sinn Fein spokesmen a seat at peace talks.

The move was announced in a statement to Irish state broadcaster RTE and said that "all IRA units have been instructed accordingly" and would be stood down.

"The IRA is committed to ending British rule in Ireland. It is the root cause of division and conflict in our country. We want a permanent peace and therefore we are prepared to enhance the search for a democratic peace settlement through real and inclusive political negotiations," the statement said.

The truce replaces a ceasefire the guerrillas called in 1994 in response to an Anglo-Irish peace initiative but which they broke with a London bomb in February 1996 after failing to earn a seat at peace negotiations.

The statement said: "We

have ordered the unequivocal restoration of the ceasefire of August 1994." It was the first time the IRA had used the word "unequivocal" and met British demands for an unconditional end to its war.

The key to the IRA move was reassurances from Britain's new Labour government, which came to power in May, that the guerrillas would not have to hand over any of their estimated two tonnes of arms to earn the right to take part in the talks.

Britain says the issue of "decommissioning," which has snarled the peace talks since they began 13 months ago, can be handled in parallel negotiations.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's government has also promised to review the issue of hundreds of IRA prisoners held in British jails for security offences linked to a three-decade-old conflict that has killed 3,200.

Mr. Blair's government says it will also put a time-frame on the talks between pro-British Unionists and pro-Irish nationalists of the end of May next year so that they do not drag on endlessly.

Unionists, who see themselves as the guardians of continued British rule which the 60 per cent Protestant majority wants, are deeply suspicious of the IRA move, which was trailed in a statement by Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams Friday.

He and chief negotiator Martin McGuinness said that they would be urging the IRA to call a new truce which would allow the party a seat at the negotiations in six weeks if it is deemed "credible and verifiable" by the British government.

But headline Unionists led by Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party have threatened to boycott the negotiations if Sinn Fein takes part without the IRA handing over arms.

The leader of the mainstream Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), David Trimble, is also mistrustful and will hold talks with Mr. Blair Monday to clarify whether or not a surrender of arms is on the cards or has been effectively shelved.

The UUP's Jeffrey Donaldson told Reuters: "We

are deeply concerned that the government has done a secret deal with the IRA to secure another ceasefire."

For the past two years the IRA has baulked at any demand that it hand over the Semtex plastic explosive and arsenal of automatic weapons it has used to attack what it sees as Britain's occupation of a part of Ireland.

Political sources said that Mr. Blair would try to allay Mr. Trimble's worries that British and Irish plans to achieve guerrilla disarmament in a gradual process alongside talks are too vague.

Mr. Blair Saturday welcomed the IRA's restoration of its 1994 ceasefire.

He spoke of a "new mood of hope for peace and a lasting political settlement in Northern Ireland."

Mr. Blair said the British government would assess the ceasefire "with great care."

He said the entry of Sinn Fein into all-party peace talks on Northern Ireland in September would depend on whether the ceasefire was "genuine in word and deed."

Liberians vote in poll to end civil war

MONROVIA (R) — Liberians besieged polling stations Saturday to vote in elections to end seven years of civil war — with some queuing from the middle of the night to cast their ballot.

With three warlord-turned-politicians and a woman among the dozen candidates for president, polling began on time at 7 a.m. in light rain in the capital Monrovia watched by international observers and West African peacekeepers.

"I'm going to stay here all day to vote if I have to," said one man, who reckoned he was number 762 in the queue at the Barclay Training Centre barracks, focus of bloody battles during the last major flare-up in the war in April and May 1996.

"Today is a good day and we pray to God that everything goes good," said Moses James, another voter, who lives across from the barracks and was one of thousands of civilians who huddled for shelter there during the 1996 fighting.

Polling took place in a shell-shattered church there.

Freed American slaves proclaimed Liberia as Africa's first independent republic in 1847 with a constitution based on that of the United States. Relations between the two were traditionally close.

The elections are the culmination of a peace deal brokered by Liberia's West African neighbours to end the war, which killed well over 150,000 people and wrecked Liberia's iron ore, timber and rubber based economy. It also has diamonds and flags foreign ships.

Ethnic Krahn army officer Master Sergeant Samuel Doe ended the dominance of the descendants of the slaves in a 1980 military coup. He toppled and killed President William Tolbert and executed his ministers on a palm fringed beach.

Charles Taylor, who is himself descended from the freed slaves and launched the war from Ivory Coast in December 1989, is widely seen as the man to beat in the presidential race.

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the former Africa director for the U.N. Development Programme, is his main purely civilian rival.

N. Korea's Kim Jong-Il reaching out to U.S., Japan, report says

TOKYO (AFP) — North Korea's supreme leader Kim Jong-Il, in a rare letter to the foreign media, has vowed to improve ties with the United States and Japan and save his Stalinist state from hard times, it was reported Saturday.

The letter, addressed to Washington-based Korean-American journalist Moon Myong-Ja, also reiterated Pyongyang's long-touted idea of reuniting with Seoul into a confederation based on "independence, peace and national unity."

The contents of the letter, dated July 13 and originally published in Mr. Moon's newsletter, were carried by the newspaper Asahi Shinbun and the Jiji Press news agency.

Mr. Kim, the eldest son of the late President Kim Il-Sung, will become North Korea's president and party chief some time between September and October "as planned," Mr. Moon also quoted a secretary of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, as saying.

It has been widely speculated by outside analysts

that the junior Kim, 55, will become president on North Korea's National Foundation Day on Sept. 9 and party general secretary on the anniversary of the Workers' Party on Oct. 10.

The power transfer has still not taken place more than three years after the senior Kim died of an apparent heart attack on July 8, fuelling doubts about the junior Kim's power base.

But North Korean officials insisted Mr. Kim Jong-Il would not take over the posts during a three-year mourning period for his father, which ended this month.

Kim Yong-Sun, the secretary charged with relations with Japan, told Mr. Moon that North Korea was "unconditionally" lifting a ban on home visits by ageing Japanese women who have spent years of marriage and isolation in the North.

"We have not attached any condition, such as food aid, to home visits by Japanese-born wives," the secretary told the journalist, who has visited Pyongyang many times and is known to

be close to the Kim family.

In the letter, the junior Kim, who has been military commander-in-chief since late 1991, said it was North Korea's "unchanged stance" to implement commitments made in the 1994 agreement with the United States.

It is also his consistent policy to work out "good neighbourly and friendly relations" with Japan, he said.

North Korea, hit by acute food shortages after two years of severe flooding, is seeking to improve ties with the United States and Japan, a move seen as necessary for the country to rehabilitate itself with foreign aid.

In the letter, the junior Kim said his country was faced with "temporary obstacles" due to the "imperialist conspiracy against us" and "years of natural disasters nationwide."

But Mr. Kim Jong-Il said he and his people had the ardent wish of strengthening the nation, which will definitely turn into a "phenomenal reality."

U.S. army's top enlisted man hit with new sex charges

WASHINGTON (R) — The army's highest-ranking enlisted soldier will face new charges of sexual misconduct involving a fifth alleged victim, the army said Friday.

Unlike previous charges, these involve an officer.

Sergeant major of the army Gene McKinney, already charged with 18 counts involving four service women, now has been charged with assault on an officer and solicitation of adultery with her, the army said in statement.

"Additional criminal charges under the uniform code of military justice were preferred against sergeant major of the army, Gene C. McKinney, today,"

the army said. "Both specifications involve the same commissioned officer and allegedly occurred between March and August 1994."

The woman's identity was not released. CNN reported that she was a major.

The case against Sgt. Maj. McKinney, a popular and charismatic chief advocate for the army's enlisted soldiers, is the latest in a series of sex scandals that have rocked the Pentagon as it incorporates more women into the armed services.

The alleged victims have portrayed Sgt. Maj. McKinney as a man who relentlessly pursued sex even after several rejections, using his powerful post as a threat against their

military careers. One woman testified she finally gave in and had unwanted sex with Sgt. Maj. McKinney while she was nearly eight months pregnant.

Sgt. Maj. McKinney, 46, a 29-year army veteran, has vehemently denied all the charges. He has offered to retire to avoid court-martial, but the army has refused.

In another development Friday, the army said Sgt. Maj. McKinney's original accuser, retired Sergeant Major Brenda Hoster, has agreed to testify after once refusing to do so out of concern that defence lawyers would pry into her past relationships.

Minor radiation leak develops at Japan nuclear power plant

TOKYO (R) — A new reactor at the world's largest nuclear power plant in northern Japan developed a minor radiation leak Friday but the problem was quickly solved and no one was exposed to radiation, a spokesman for its operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) said.

The spokesman told Reuters Saturday there was also no leakage of radiation outside the facility itself and no disruption to operations at the plant.

Vapour containing a small amount of radioactive substance leaked at around 9:30

a.m. (0030 GMT) Friday from a gauge inside the unit that houses the turbine of the No. 7 reactor at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Atomic Power Plant in Niigata prefecture along the Sea of Japan coast.

"At 9:20 a.m. Friday morning radioactive steam was discovered leaking from a pressure gauge on turbine seven. We estimate less than three litres of radioactive steam escaped from the gauge. No one was exposed to radiation and no radiation leaked outside the facility," spokesman Haknei Shinoda said.

Revealed at last: Why boys will be boys and girls will be girls

By Charles Arthur

IT IS the gene that explains feminine intuition. It is the gene that explains why you can persuade a group of adolescent men to attack a machine-gun emplacement. It is the gene that explains why New Men are made, not born.

Its effects may be subtle, but a team of British scientists is quite certain that they have tracked it down to the X chromosome — one of the two sex chromosomes.

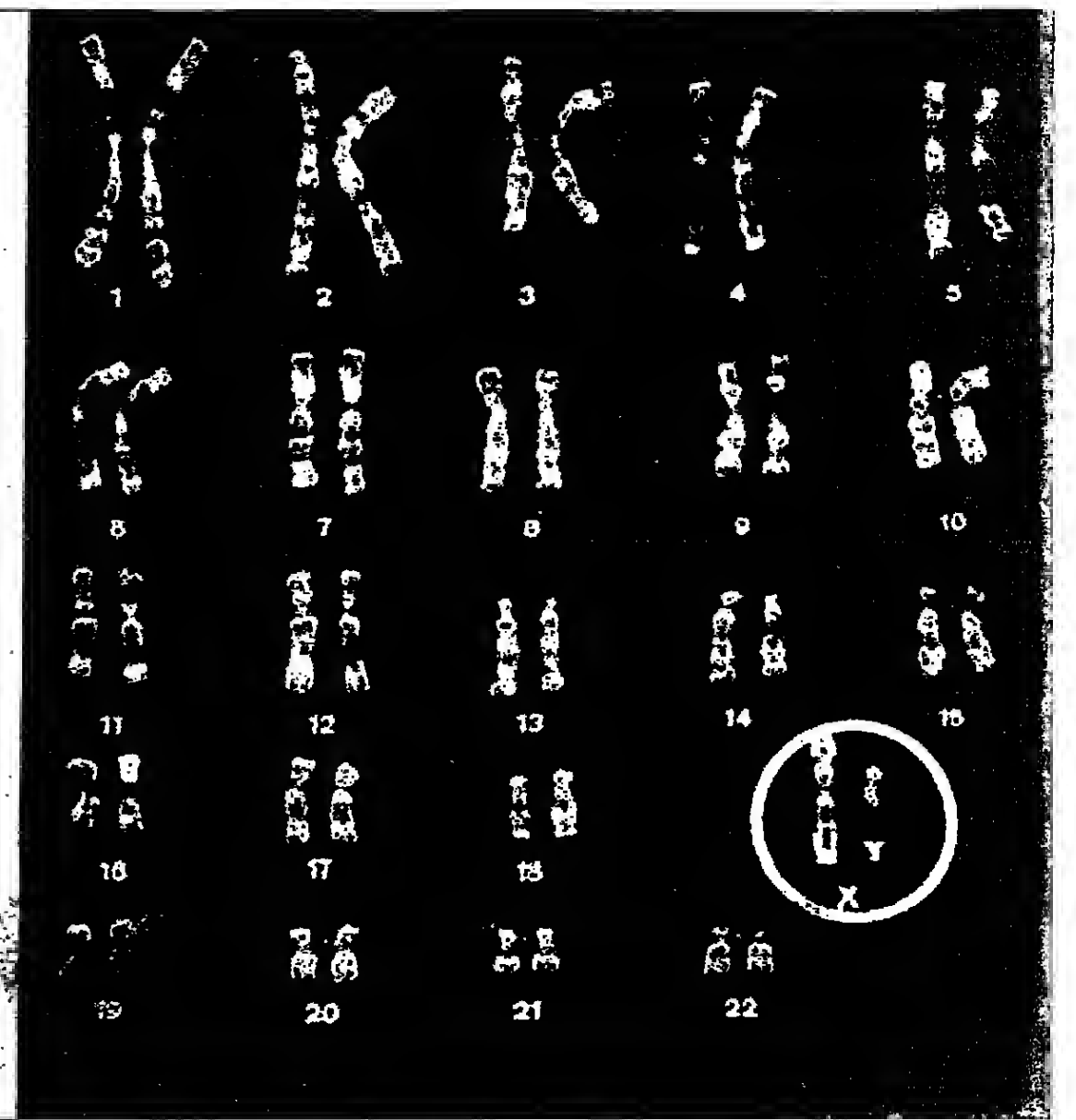
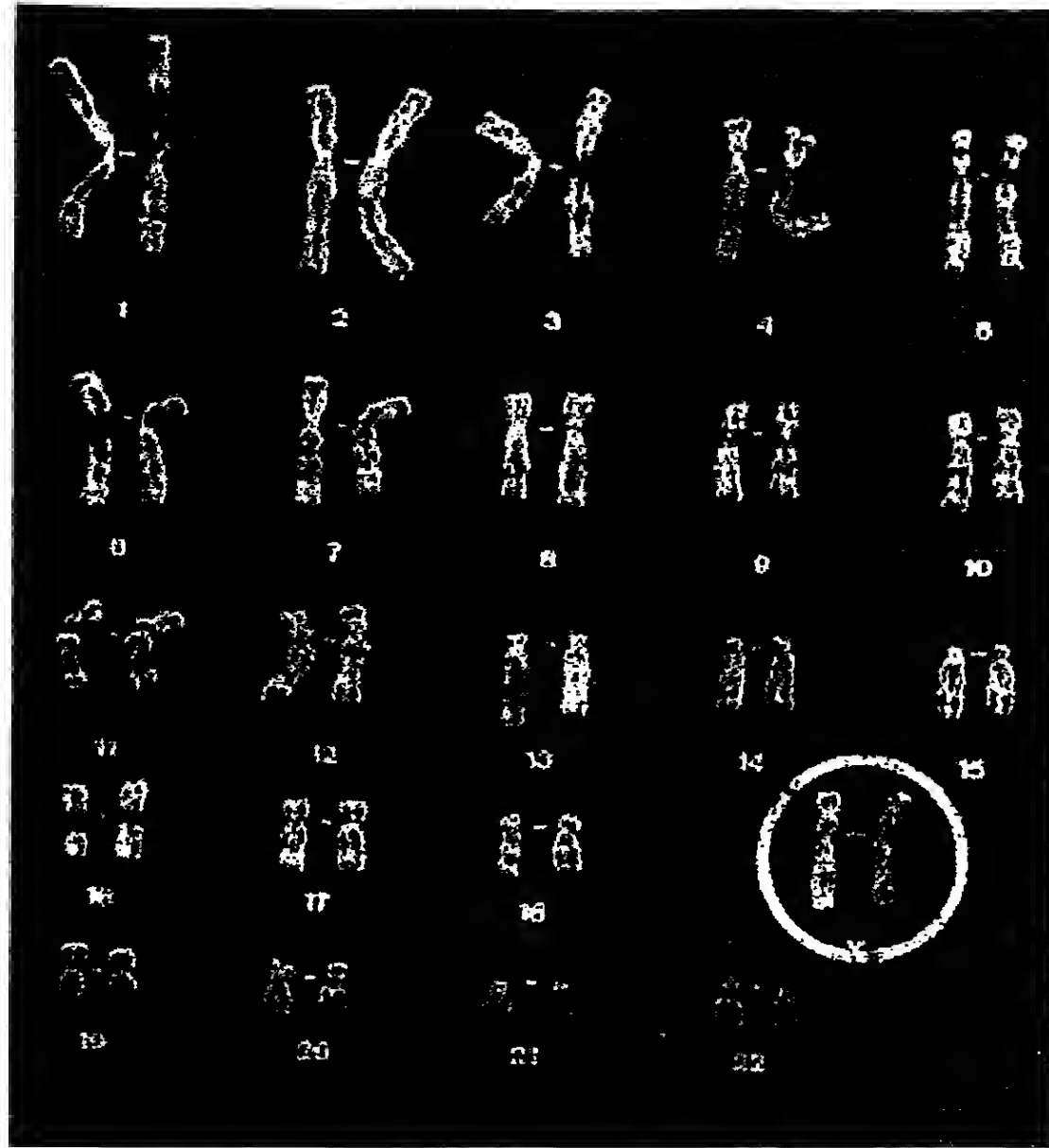
The discovery marks the first time that behavioural differences between sexes have been pinpointed to a single location on one chromosome. Its implications are far-reaching. Professor David Skuse, who led the research at the Institute of Child Health, said: "It may imply that we need to think seriously about providing more structured social education for boys, compared to girls."

He emphasised that the gene is not a "gene for criminality," or for misbehaviour — though it may explain why boys can more easily be persuaded to behave badly. They are less able to see that their behaviour is errant.

Both men and women have the gene — but it is only "switched on" in women. Its effect is to make them responsive to others and able to recognise social norms without prompting.

"Feminine intuition comes about by observing non-verbal behaviour," said Professor Skuse. "It has a genetic origin. It's nothing to do with hormones. Boys aren't poor at this because of testosterone. It's because of the X chromosome."

Such a definite sexual split in the allocation of a gene would have to have an evolutionary advantage for both genders. Professor



The chromosomes pictured at the left come from a woman — because the sex chromosomes are both Xs (circled). The other set comes from a man, because it includes the X and Y sex genes (circled, right). One must have a Y gene to be male. Though both sexes have the 'intuition' gene, located somewhere near the centre of the X chromosome, it only functions in women.

Skuse said: "While girls pick up social skills from those around them, boys are a blank slate to be written upon. The question is, why is it advantageous for males to be socially insensitive? We do not know for sure."

"It could mean that it's easier for a dominant male in a tribe to recruit them to a hunting party — or even for war. I don't think many

young women would be prepared to go into the face of guns like young men did at Gallipoli. And being less empathic makes it easier to go out and kill somebody."

But he did have some reassuring words. "This finding does not mean that men are incapable of learning social skills. But it does mean they have to be taught them."

New Men, therefore, can

only occur through education — they aren't born to the role.

Like all other genes, this one instructs the body to make a single protein, which has not yet been identified. But Professor Skuse doubted that we will ever be able to bottle feminine intuition. The protein seems to affect the brain, probably during the embryo stage.

The conclusions, reported recently in the science journal *Nature*, emerged from interviews with parents of children who have a rare genetic condition known as Turner's Syndrome. Normally, men have an X chromosome (inherited from their mother) and a Y chromosome (from their father); women have two X chromosomes, each inherited from their parents. Turner's

Syndrome, which only affects females, is caused by faulty cell division before conception, and leaves them with a single X chromosome rather than two because the egg or sperm fails to deliver an X chromosome.

Girls with the syndrome are usually of normal intelligence, but they frequently struggle to learn social behaviour such as recognis-

ing non-verbal signals.

Psychological tests on 80 girls with this condition found that the effect was more marked in those who had received their single X gene from their mothers. In those whose X gene came from their father, the lack of social skills was less marked.

This is because of a process called "imprinting": when two copies of a

gene are inherited, only one will function. The "intuition" gene is turned off in the father's cells — but turned on, or imprinted, in his sperm. By contrast, the gene is turned off in the mother's egg cells — meaning that under normal circumstances a male cannot inherit feminine intuition.

The Independent

India, home to most of world's tigers, too weak to protect them

By Ranjan Roy
The Associated Press

BANDIPUR, India — Deep in the jungle of the Bandipur animal reserve stands a straw shack. It shelters a key — and perhaps weakest — link in the campaign to save India's tigers from extinction.

Sipping black tea, a rusty 314-calibre, bolt-action rifle slung over his shoulder by a pajama drawstring, forest guard D.P. Rathore sits in the shack surrounded by a ditch that keeps the wildlife at bay.

He is one of only 16 officers who guard against poaching in the 800-square-kilometer Bandipur forest in southern India. Every day, Rathore saunters in his rubber sandals 16 kilometers back and forth through the jungle. To report trouble, he has to walk 15 kilometers to the nearest park office with a radio.

Thirteen years after India started project tiger with the goal of saving the big cat in its last natural habitats, conservationists say it is woefully underfunded and has little to show for its efforts.

Game wardens in the reserve forests have few jeeps, no radios, no uniforms, and few weapons, none of them modern.

An average of one tiger is killed every day in India, which is home to the majority of the world's tigers. Only about 3,000 are estimated to remain in the wild here, down from 40,000 at the beginning of the century when the world had 100,000 tigers. The world total now stands at

about 5,000 tigers.

Poaching is spurred by growing international demand for tiger parts for use in traditional Asian medicines. Ethnic Chinese are the main consumers, but many others are increasingly turning to balms and lotions made of tiger parts in the belief it cures a host of ailments from infertility to rheumatism.

"An average of one tiger is killed every day in India, which is home to the majority of the world's tigers. Only about 3,000 are estimated to remain in the wild here, down from 40,000 at the beginning of the century when the world had 100,000 tigers. The world total now stands at about 5,000 tigers."

The world wildlife fund estimates illicit trading in tigers and other endangered animals is worth \$6 billion a year around the world. At the front lines of the war to protect tigers are Rathore and his colleagues at Bandipur. He works eight straight days, then gets a day off.

"He is like a beat policeman," says S.N. Rajagopal, deputy conservator of forests in Bandipur, one of the largest of India's 23 tiger reserves.

Bandipur gets about 5 million rupees (\$143,000) a year from project tiger, which is partly financed by international environmen-

tal groups. Other parks get more or less depending on their size. The project is controlled by federal bureaucrats, often with little or no experience in conservation, and officials of the Indian forest service.

"I was given one pair of shoes when I joined this job six months back. I have to use it carefully," says Mr. Rathore, whose monthly salary is 2,600

rupees, or a little more than \$70.

Nine park wardens in Bandipur are supposed to have jeeps, but only one does.

"On paper there are a lot of vehicles, but most of them are condemned to the garage," Mr. Rajagopal says as he bounces along a forest track in a minibus used both for officials and tourist safaris. "We have very little money to increase the facilities. Seventy per cent of our money goes in wages."

Critics contend very little of project tiger's money trickles down to the parks and low-ranking rangers who do the main work in

protecting tigers and managing forests. Most of the money is spent on wages, repair and upkeep of equipment.

"I would hazard a guess that not more than 10 per cent of the money was actually spent in the field to protect the tiger," says Bittu Sahgal, editor of *Sanctuary* magazine and a well-known environmentalist.

Park officials say Bandipur has 70 tigers. Many local conservationists think it is less, saying the official figure is based on poor counting techniques.

Tiger sightings are so rare the park has a register to record them. A recent check showed just two sightings by hundreds of visitors and the 200 members of the park staff.

Mr. Rajagopal, the deputy conservator, insists his park has not been ravaged by poachers, as have many in northern India. He says the last poaching occurred in Bandipur two years ago, but many conservationists say most poaching goes unreported.

"If a poaching incident is reported, for instance, the officer is quite likely to face a departmental inquiry for failing to perform his duty," says Sahgal, the new Delhi-based conservationist.

Indeed, local newspapers recently reported a new wave of poaching in the region. A conservation group describes the area around Bandipur, including two neighboring elephant reserves, as a veritable marketplace for animal products.

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Jordan lifts ban on imports of milk, foodstuffs from European states

AMMAN (Petrus) — Jordan Saturday lifted a ban on milk products and foodstuffs containing milk from Britain, Ireland, Switzerland, Portugal, France and the Netherlands.

An announcement on lifting the ban was made by Minister of Health and Health Care Ashraf Kurdi who said that the government has taken this decision upon a recommendation from the Kingdom's food board and a scientific committee which was studying the effects of the "mad cow" disease on milk products.

Dr. Kurdi circulated the decision to the ministries of trade, industry and supply and agriculture as well as

the Customs Department. The minister sent these institutions a report by a scientific committee with details of the research on the disease.

Dr. Kurdi recommended that Jordan import milk from these sources if the shipment is enclosed with a certified certificate of origin from the producing country that the product is free of the mad cow disease.

But, the memorandum also retained the ban on importing live cows and fresh or frozen beef from these countries.

The ban was retained on medicines, cosmetics and pharmaceutical products which contain cow-related products.

Pakistan targets billion dollar boost in exports

ISLAMABAD. Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan is aiming for a \$1 billion increase in exports next year, the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) has reported Saturday.

Commerce Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar set \$10 billion as the target for exports in the fiscal year which began June 1, up from

the year earlier when exports reached \$8.7 billion.

In a bid to boost investments and jumpstart the industrial sector, the government has slashed export duties and eliminated taxes on machinery imported for industrial use, he said. "There should be no problem in reaching this target," the APP quoted the minister as saying.

Cyprus economy forecast to improve if tourism recovers

NICOSIA (AFP) — Economic activity in Cyprus this year is forecast to show an improvement over 1996 as long as tourism recovers, while the fiscal deficit and inflation will hold generally steady, the Central Bank governor has said.

Weak domestic demand and a drop in tourism earnings saw gross domestic product (GDP) grow by just 1.9 per cent in 1996 after galloping ahead by six per cent the year before. Governor Afentis Afentiu said, the official Cyprus News Agency (CNA) reported.

The fiscal deficit blew out to 3.4 per cent of GDP last year from 1.0 per cent in 1995 while the jobless rate and inflation also rose. Mr. Afentiu said at a press conference presenting the bank's 1996 annual report.

But GDP is expected to grow 2.5 per cent in 1997 if a rebound in the tourism sector on the eastern Mediterranean island continues.

In contrast to the poor tourism performance in the early part of the year, tourist arrivals in May alone increased by five per cent.

"Indications are that an increase will also be recorded in June, leading to an expected GDP growth rate of 2.5 per cent," CNA said. "According to recent industry figures, tourist arrivals dropped by around seven per cent in 1996 to 1.95 million and foreign exchange earnings from the sector, which generate 18 per cent of GDP, slid by just under four per cent to 780 million pounds (\$1.56 billion).

Inflation in Cyprus is expected to continue on an upward trend to around 3.3 per cent in 1997 compared with 3.0 per cent last year and 2.5 per cent in 1995. Mr. Afentiu said, adding that unemployment rose to 3.1 per cent last year from 2.6 per cent in 1995.

"The unemployment rate, as well as the fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP are not expected to show any significant change (in 1997)," CNA reported, quoting Mr. Afentiu as saying that Cyprus had taken "every necessary measure to curb and eradicate" the deficit.

Egypt lowers tariffs to encourage foreign investment

CAIRO (AFP) — The

Egyptian government has decided to reduce by five per cent the tariffs on a range of imported products to promote foreign investment in the country, officials have said.

"Under a decree that went into effect Friday, the customs tariffs on certain imported products varying between 40 and 55 per cent were reduced by five per cent," Egyptian Cabinet Secretary Talaat Hammad was quoted as saying in the government daily Akhbar

Al Yum.

The tariff reductions include electronic devices, rugs and cement, according to an Egyptian official, who added that the 40 to 135 per cent tax on imported vehicles would remain unchanged.

The Egyptian government, which launched a major initiative in 1991 to liberalise the country's state-run economy, has taken several measures to encourage foreign investment.

Tunisia steps up policy to spur exports

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia has scrapped a five per cent export duty in order to stimulate export-oriented business.

At a meeting of a newly created export council, President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali announced a set of measures to spur export growth, including the streamlining of export procedures.

He ordered the drafting of a legal framework for exports based on a "single document" that would cut the red tape hampering customs procedures.

President Ben Ali instructed the authorities to devise incentives to encourage

young exporters and extend the term of export licences from one year to two.

Among the measures announced by President Ben Ali to boost export firms was the creation of an "exporter house" and specialised offices to provide exporters with economic data and guidance.

"Offices will be set at all involved public companies, government services and banks," he said.

The "exporter house" will help arrange meetings between Tunisian businessmen and their foreign partners.

Japan gives Syria \$9.5m grant

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syria has received Thursday a 1,099 million yen (\$9.5 million) development grant from Japan, the official Syrian news agency SANA said.

Part of the aid will come in the form of agricultural machinery to increase food production in the governorate of Deir Al Zor in east Syria, the agency said.

The rest of the money will fund the second stage of a project to train engineers and technicians to operate steam and gas-powered electricity stations at Jandar near Homs, 160 kilometres north of Damascus.

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.7970	0.5961	1.4723	116.43	1.3760	1745.00	2.0178	6.0556	
DE Mark	0.5565	0.3315	0.8192	64.79	0.7653	970.52	1.1225	3.3602	
GB Sterling	1.6775	3.0040	1.0000	2.4729	193.51	2.3082	2927.24	3.3844	10.1581
CH Franc	0.6792	1.2197	0.4045	1.0000	79.06	0.8340	1184.42	136.74	4.1102
JP Yen	0.0086	1.5421	0.5114	1.2635	1.0000	1.1808	14.97	173.13	5.1985
CA Dollar	0.7257	1.3055	0.4329	1.0696	1.16	1.0000	1267.71	1.4657	4.3992
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0292	0.3413	0.0843	1500.83	0.7881	1.0000	11.55	3.4682
NL Guilder	0.4057	69.05	0.2953	72.95	57.68	0.6819	864.72	1.0000	3.0007
FR Franc	0.1651	0.2967	0.0984	24.3054	19.21	0.2272	33.31	33.3100	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LEB	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7090	3.7505	0.3770	3.6395	0.3031	3.6721	1534.00	3.3900
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.0000	5.2698	0.5317	5.1333	0.4275	5.1793	2163.61	4.7814
GB Sterling	0.2666	0.1690	0.1005	0.97	0.8086	0.98	0.9091	409.01	0.9039
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8808	9.9491	1.0000	0.85	0.8040	0.74	4069.29	8.9828
Qatar Dinar	0.2748	0.1948	1.0305	1.0305	1.0000	0.8033	1.01	421.49	0.9314
Kuwait Dinar	3.2992	2.3392	12.3738	1.2437	12.01	1.0000	12.12	5061.04	0.9314
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1931	1.0214	1.0214	0.9911	0.8025	1.01	417.74	0.9232
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4622	2.4449	0.2457	2.3726	0.1976	2.3838	1.0000	2.2099
Egyptian	0.2390	0.2091	1.1063	0.1112	1.0736	0.0894	1.0832	452.51	1.0000

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	16.66	10.28
WTI	19.16	16.90
Bonny	16.58	19.26
Dubai	17.58	17.49
UL Gas	184.00	184.00

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4794	0.15894	0.39283	31.0704				
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4994	0.16234	0.40122	31.7339				
KW Dinar	3.2992	5.9312	1.96587	4.86145	384.488				
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.76872	1.56128	3.90778	308.119				
CY Pound	1.8803	3.3951	1.1259	2.7816	210.971				

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	328.6	329.1
Silver (oz's)	4.28	4.3
Platinum (oz's)	412	415
AL (3 Months)	1605	1608
CU (3 Months)	2326	2331
Zinc (3 Months)	1525	1530
Lead (3 Months)	648	652
Ni (3 Months)	6795	6825

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Period	1	3	6	9	12	18	24	36	48
USD	5.58	5.62	5.68	5.76	5.71				
GBP	6.75	6.84	7.12	7.12	7.38				
JPY	0.41	0.44	0.45	0.51	0.57				
DEM	3.08	3.08	3.09	3.24	3.28				
FRF	3.28	3.28	3.38	3.43	3.48				
CHF	1.45	1.45	1.53	1.58	1.60				
ITL	6.86	6.85	6.73	6.55	6.40				

Main Equity Indices									
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cts		
New York	DOW JONES	7890.46	-130.31	-1.62	8036.1	7875.36	8020.77		
New York	S&P 500	915.3	-16.31	-1.75	931.61	912.9	931.61		
London	FT-SE 100	4877.2	-71.6	-1.45	4998.1	4848.3	4949		
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20249.32	-269.93	-1.32	20545.2	20248.1	20519.3		
Paris	CAC 40	2876.68	-81.8	-2.77	2941.31	2843.41	2958.59		
Frankfurt	DAX	4196.53	-30.78	-0.73	4204.18	4173.1	4227.31		

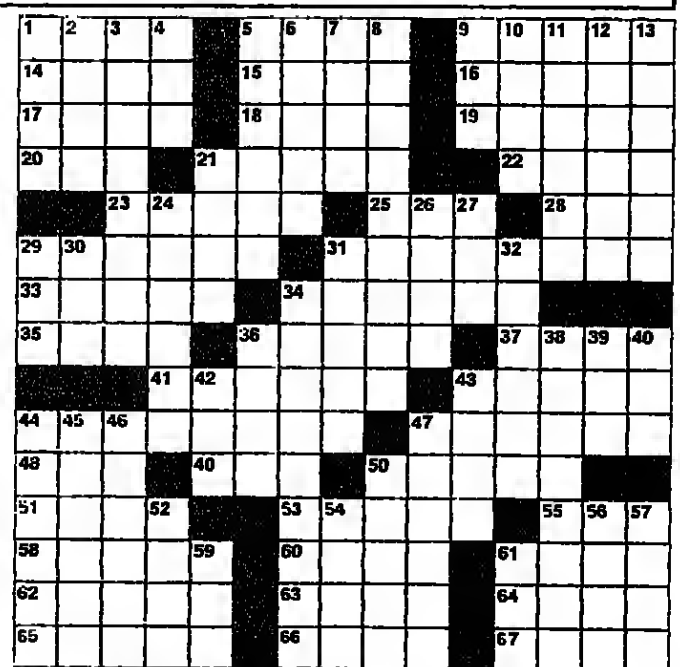
Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	174.42	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1565	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	330.5	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	139	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	22.13	Spot
Tea (\$/kg)	130	Spot
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot

JOD Cross Rates									
Currency	Buy	Sell							
US Dollar	0.708	0.710							
GB Sterling	1.1866	1.1925							
DE Mark	0.3941	0.3961							
CH Franc	0.48	0.4824							
FR Franc	0.1168	0.1174							
JP Yen	0.0109	0.0114							
NL Guilder	0.3505	0.3523							
IT Lira	0.4051	0.4071							

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Marx and
Angora
5 Very greedy
9 North Dakota
city
14 "Ben Adhem"
15 Paddy plant
16 Act vigorously
17 Feature of a
dromedary
18 Tiny amount
19 Piece of sod
20 A degree
21 Shiraz native
22 Like some TV
shows
23 Fill with dismay:
verb
25 Cartography
item
28 Always,
poetically
29 On the level
31 Pop singer
33 Spot for a
bracelet
34 Type of leather
35 Rebecca or
Nathanael
36 Room's partner
37 Fall
41 Goolagong of
tennis
43 Plumed bird
44 Is taken in by a
scalper
47 Sedative
48 Order at the bar
49 Norm: abbr.
50 Clutch
51 Cape —
Portugal
53 Strongman
55 Soho tavern
58 Flea to Gretna
Green
60 Fasten securely
61 Help with the
dishes
62 Lorelei
63 Danger —
Musical James
65 Well-known
woodenhead
66 Inquires
67 School on the
Thames



by Bernice Gordon

CEASE	AWOK	CAPE
UNCAS	ROITA	HULL
JOHNS	MOLTZ	ARAL
OWED	OIL	OPATE
REMAN	ASIS	
ACE	DANNY	ABBE
THECY	YOUNG	AWARD
SOTO	STERN	CAD
CASE	EIGHTY	
JACK	MC	DOWELL
URANIA	SUN	IOA
RUSE	PATIENT	GEN
OBEY	ELIA	ECLAT
RAYS	SEAN	THERE

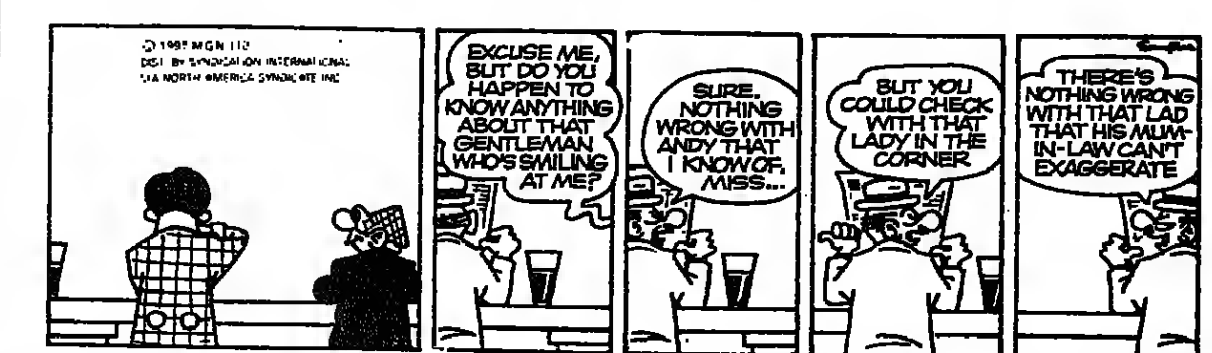
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- DOWN
1 Sammy of
music
2 Border on
3 Oscar winner
4 Have a meal
5 Noah's landing
place
6 Of great
importance
7 Computer
picture
8 "Ghost" star
9 G-man
10 Angle on a leaf
stem
11 Critic's opinion
12 Chinge
13 Playful animals
21 — dixit
24 Stone thrower
26 Old, to Burns
27 Before: pref.
29 Turn left
30 Song from "A
Chorus Line"
31 Banking deals
32 Slow musical
passage
34 "Who's the
Boss?" star
36 Vesel
38 "Legends of the
Fall" actor
39 Rent
40 Summer along
the Seine
42 Govt. offs.
43 Group of poems
44 Monstrous
woman
45 Fiddle
46 More!
47 Clerical wear
50 Squint
52 Mimic
54 City in New
Mexico
56 — date
(modern)
57 Navy or green
59 Football position
61 Microscopic

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Lebanon billion

who has a national investor from a theme park became a Beirut Lebanon buying a number of... The sou... put a price... plan in... said it... dreds of... tials... "We thi... night cycl... and the co... potential... Lebanon... ing from

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Saudi billionaire prince eyeing Lebanon deals

BEIRUT (R) — Mega-investor Saudi Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal is eyeing Lebanon, where he plans to ride the reconstruction boom with hundreds of millions of dollars invested in tourism and banking.

"The prince is looking at mainly tourism and banking in Lebanon," a source close to the prince who requested anonymity told Reuters.

"Lebanon used to be the biggest tourism market in the Middle East and now with the reconstruction the prince thinks tourism will be hot again," he added.

Prince Al Waleed, who has a huge international portfolio of investments ranging from computers to theme parks, this year became a major partner in Beirut finance house Lebanon Invest after buying an undisclosed number of shares.

The source would not put a price tag on Prince Al Waleed's investment plan in Lebanon, but said it ran into the hundreds of millions of dollars.

"We think this is the right cycle for Lebanon and the country has high potential," he said.

Lebanon, still recovering from a devastating

1975-90 civil war, has mounted a multi-billion dollar drive to rebuild the country's infrastructure and Beirut, once the region's banking and financial capital.

Prince Al Waleed's plan to invest here is good news for the Lebanese government which is trying to restore investor confidence and is hoping to lure tourists with summer festivals.

Some market watchers were optimistic that his interest in Lebanon would boost prospects.

"For sure this is good news. What is interesting is what kind of direct investments he will pursue. That's the key question," said one.

But one broker was cautious.

"It would be dangerous for the market to have one man holding hundreds of millions of dollars in investments," he said.

The source close to Prince Al Waleed said he was interested in Lebanon's congested banking sector. But he added that there were no negotiations underway with specific banks.

One market watcher said the prince would probably be on the prowl for small banks which are struggling to boost

their capital.

"It is likely that he will look to buy small banks which are having trouble meeting the obligation to raise their capital," he said.

He said the prince is in the final stages of negotiations with real estate firm Solidere, Lebanon's biggest company, to buy property to build a \$100 million Four Seasons Hotel in the city centre.

The prince said last month that he had forged a partnership with a Lebanese businessman to open a Planet Hollywood restaurant in Beirut.

UAE banks perform better in first half of this year

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Banks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) performed better in the first half of 1997 and the trend is expected to continue through the year because of an economic upturn, bankers have said.

Unaudited inter-bank reports showed most of the Gulf country's 47 national and foreign banks netted at least 10 per cent higher profits.

"Reports circulated among banks showed most of them boosted net profits by at least 10 per cent in the first half of this year," a

bank manager said, asking anonymity. "This is a natural result of an economic upswing in the UAE and better investment results by the banks."

An economic boom caused by a surge in oil prices and higher government spending in 1996 enabled the UAE's banks to net their highest earnings since the end of the oil boom 14 years ago.

The balance sheets of 15 national banks which published 1996 results showed their net profits surged by around 17 per cent to 2.29 billion dirhams (\$623 million) from 1.95 billion dirhams (\$531 million) in 1995.

The UAE is one of only a few countries which have not been hit by the decline in oil prices over the past decade as its crude production has risen sharply.

But the country, which controls nearly 10 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves, has sought to ease reliance on crude export earnings by encouraging the private sector and investing heavily in industry and other fields.

Bankers said the bulk of the profits by the UAE banks came from credits, mainly to trade, construction and industrial projects.

"The combined profits of the UAE banks have steadily grown since 1988. They have not recorded negative growth in any year," a banker said. "You can say this year will be a natural extension of the previous years."

Stockbrokers said the prices of shares of banks, which publish only annual results, have increased by around 10 per cent in the first half of this year because of leaking reports about their robust performance.

The increase combined with strong demand for other shares to boost the unofficial stock index by 6.6 per cent to 2,646.02 points on Tuesday, up from 2,480.90 on Jan 1.

The UAE, a key organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries member, has the Gulf's second largest banking sector after Saudi Arabia in terms of assets. It stood at 186 billion dirhams (\$50.6 billion) at the end of 1996.

The non-oil sector is forecast to grow by around 5.6 per cent while investments are expected to peak at 41 billion dirhams (\$11.17 billion).

The 28 foreign banks also reported sharp growth in their earnings.

"Banks are benefiting from a surge in projects in the country, in both the public and private sectors. This is mainly because the government has boosted spending, and the private sector is encouraged by the general trend of the economy over the past few years," a UAE banker said.

"Another factor is that oil prices have remained strong this year. For banks, this means more liquidity in the UAE and consequently, more activity," he added.

The UAE economy soared by nearly 10 per cent in 1996 as a result of the increase in oil prices and stronger performance by the non-oil sector.

Officials have projected another good year in 1997, with the gross domestic product rising by around 4.4 per cent to 171 billion dirhams (\$46.59 billion) from 163.7 billion dirhams (\$41.6 billion) in 1996.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Exports rise by 6.5 per cent during first quarter of this year

** NATIONAL EXPORTS rose by 6.5 per cent during the first quarter of this year as they totalled JD226.6 million compared to JD212.8 million during the same period in 1996, a report prepared by the Studies and Planning Directorate at the Ministry of Planning has revealed.

According to the report, reexports were lower by 8.5 per cent falling to JD53.8 million from JD58.8 million recorded during the first quarter of last year. As for imports during the first three months of 1997, the total was 2.1 per cent higher at JD671.1 million compared to JD657.4 million posted during the same months of 1996.

The traditional Arab markets absorbed JD93.1 million or 43.7 per cent of our total exports. India, Ethiopia and Israel bought goods and products worth JD23.3 million, Saudi Arabia topped the list as exports to the neighbouring kingdom amounted to JD32.1 million, a growth of 35 per cent from the JD23.8 million during the first three months of 1996. Exports to Iraq grew by 80 per cent reaching JD24.6 million during the first quarter of this year (JD13.5 million in 1996).

Exports to the Palestinian self-rule areas did not exceed JD1.8 million although the amount was a 125 per cent increase over the 1996 first quarter amount of JD0.8 million. Exports to Israel amounted to JD2.7 million but the report said that exports to both the Israeli and Palestinian markets were still below the target level.

The report attributed the low volume to some customs procedures followed in Israel and the inability of Jordanian industrial goods to compete in the Israeli market which require specifications similar to a great extent to the European specifications.

The report said Jordanian exports have not yet been able to really penetrate the foreign markets and that is probably due to the lower quality of Jordanian industrial goods compared to the foreign-made and the weak marketing capabilities. Other reasons, the report added, could be the industrialists' lack of knowledge about the export potential to outside markets due to the absence of information about those markets and export procedures, especially for small industries which constitute a high percentage of Jordanian industries.

The trade deficit during the first quarter of 1997 stood at JD390.7 million, 1.3 per cent higher than the JD385.8 million deficit at the end of first quarter of last year. The report said the rise in the deficit was less than any other period in the past (Al Ra'i).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 19/07/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRANSACTIONS	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	PERCENT
1 286,000	214,500	ARAB BANK	13.6	1.35	77	2900	853662	286.00	296.00	10.00	3.5
1 340	1,660	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	41	34236	71785	2.08	2.11	0.03	1.4
1 3600	2,760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.6	0.00	4	9000	28360	3.20	3.15	-0.05	-1.6
1 5200	4,400	THE HOUSING BK.	14.7	1.95	2	237	1161	4.91	4.91	-	0.0
1 4180	2,460	AL-SHARQ INV. 751	5.8	0.00	7	450	1239	2.81	2.15	-0.66	-23.5
1 050	780	JOR. GULF BANK	4.6	8.97	2	950	739	7.77	7.77	0.00	0.0
1 050	3,480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.9	1.07	77	58300	217709	3.80	3.91	0.11	2.9
1 800	1,110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	9	0.00	8	2700	3410	1.20	1.26	0.06	4.8
1 440	930	PELADIA INV. BK.	9	0.00	12	2900	2573	0.93	0.88	-0.05	-5.7
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 217.93	%CHG: +2.71	230	109713	1180637				
3,000	2,700	JORDAN INSURANCE	11.8	5.45	2	3974	10929	2.75	2.75	-	0.0
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 113.52	%CHG: 0.00	2	3974	10929				
1 620	1,500	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.1	5.99	14	9002	16909	1.65	1.67	0.02	1.2
2 780	2,340	REIDER MINERALS	14.2	5.55	1	300	843	2.68	2.81	0.13	4.9
6 100	4,100	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	15.4	4.00	2	9050	45250	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.0
1 550	930	WAT. FORTIFOLIO	15.9	0.00	4	4040	6157	1.48	1.52	0.04	2.7
3 720	2,890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	7.8	0.00	2	2500	7385	2.97	2.97	0.00	0.0
1 220	930	BANKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	2	1000	935	0.93	0.93	0.00	0.0
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 108.76	%CHG: +0.27	66	62302	130949				
4 450	3,100	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	26.9	2.75	8	1277	5107	4.05	4.00	-0.05	-1.2
4 140	2,710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	11.0	2.53	3	142	559	3.95	3.95	0.00	0.0
10 250	9,040	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.5	9.07	3	124	1215	9.60	9.60	0.00	0.0
1 470	1,050	WOLLER INDUSTRIES	10.4	8.33	2	580	660	3.92	3.94	0.02	0.5
4 100	3,040	ARAB PHARM. IND.	10.9	5.08	8	1544	6067	3.92	3.94	0.02	0.5
3 410	2,700	JOR. PAPER CARBON	16.1	1.00	1	150	428	2.75	2.85	0.10	3.6
5 650	4,300	DAR ALADAM BY INV.	13.2	4.63	9	1216	6431	5.20	5.40	0.20	3.8
3 850	2,400	JOR. ALUM. IND.	10.9	10.25	3	147	356	2.43	2.44	0.01	0.4
960	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.7	0.00	16	14500	6670	0.46	0.46	0.00	0.0
1 300	510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	0	0.00	2	500	168	0.33	0.34	0.01	3.0
950	530	JOR. BUILDING CHEM.	9	0.00	3	850	460	0.54	0.54	0.00	0.0
1 670	1,120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.4	5.15	1	200	272	1.34	1.36	0.02	1.5
1 430	780	KWANTER INVEST.	76.9	0.00	5	2050	1541	0.78	0.78	0.00	0.0
2 020	1,100	UNIV. MOK. INDUS.	9	0.00	22	6850	7563	1.11	1.10	-0.01	-0.9
1 520	1,000	JOR. WOOD. REFINERIES	13.9	9.71	4	900	935	1.08	1.03	-0.05	-4.6
1 090	810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.2	0.00	4	1539	1276	0.84	0.83	-0.01	-1.2
2 090	1,420	EL-SAY READY WEAR	48.3	0.00	11	3200	4485	1.43	1.39	-0.04	-2.9
1 130	1,000	INTL. TOBACCO	6.2	0.00	14	8200	9512	1.17	1.16	-0.01	-0.8
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 125.91	%CHG: -0.19	122	43987	53927				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 167.74	%CHG: +1.40	420	219976	1376441				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 19/07/1997											
640	350	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	0	0.00	8	1800	692	0.38	0.39	0.01	2.6
670	410	JOR. TRADE FAC.	11.5	0.00	17	33350	14341	0.42	0.43	0.01	2.4
950	540	JOR. FIB. INV. CO.	8	0.00	30	72500	40738	0.56	0.58	0.02	3.6
640	660	UNION INV. 504	0	0.00	4	1505	301	0.70	0.70	0.00	0.0
660	370	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	8	8800	2610	0.45	0.45	0.00	0.0
950	720	AL-SHARQ INV. 751	5	0.00	2	10250	5220	0.75	0.76	0.01	1.3
950	610	AL-DAMLATH 751	61.4	0.00	6	15190	5774	0.63	0.64	0.01	1.6
750	400	WAT. HULT. IND. MUKICO	9	0.00	6	9100	4641	0.51	0.52	0.01	1.9
960	500	READY MIX CONCRETE	11.0	0.00	1	1000	940	0.93	0.94	0.01	1.1
950	710	UNION TOROCCO 751	32.6	6.94	17	43769	21513	0.73	0.72	-0.01	-1.4
580	430	ARAB ELCTC. IND.	0	0.00	1	50	25	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.0
730	600	HIDRANT PHARM. 751	8	0.00	1	450	166	0.61	0.62	0.01	1.6
1 220	860	UNION TOROCCO 751	0	0.00	1	500	345	0.64	0.64	0.00	0.0
680	550	HAZI PHARM. 851	2	0.00	3	4400	1804	0.55	0.56	0.01	1.8
600	320	INDUS. BNG.	20.3	0.00	1	750	248	0.33	0.33	0.00	0.0
750	650	INDUS. CERAMIC	19.7	0.00	1	100	78	0.78	0.78	0.00	0.0
760	550	PERAZ SAN. P. CONV.	8	0.00	4	1328	855	0.66	0.66	0.00	0.0
820	590	WAT. POLYMER	8	0.00	4	350	3210	0.61	0.60	-0.01	-1.6
1 020	710	RAY ALUMINUM 751	8	0.00	1	211	1142	0.73	0.74	0.01	1.4
1 020	720	ARAB INT. FOOD FACT.	34.7	0.00	11	110000	79200	0.74	0.72	-0.02	-2.7
670	590	RED-EAST COMPLEX	7.9	15.63	28	52550	33522	0.63	0.64	0.01	1.6
GRAND TOTAL			163	372283	227367						

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"You should be glad I'm dull. Excitement is what gets husbands in trouble!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUMMY SKIMP PENMAN HAUNCH
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Jordan earns fourth gold medal, adds silver in judo

Table tennis team beats Libya, moves to semis

By Aileen Bannayan
and JSYTF
press committee

THE BOXING team continued to add medals for Jordan Saturday when Mohammad Abu Khadijeh won the fourth gold medal after defeating Syria's Mahdi Kahan 22-8 on points in the heavyweight, over 91-kilogramme category on the 7th day of the 8th Pan-Arab Games currently underway in Beirut.

Teammate Ayman Al Nadi had won another gold medal earlier taking first place in the 63-kilogramme category after beating Saudi Arabia's Jam'an Shuqairi 14-7 on points.

Mousa Khalaf took another silver for Jordan when he won the Kingdom's inaugural judo participation in the Games after easily disposing of Syria's Muhayyeddin Rahim and beating Egypt's Sayyed Bomizan.

Jordan took seventh place in the judo event in which 11 countries took part. Following his win Nadi, 27, told AFP that he desperately wanted to win the gold to direct the attention of Jordan's sports officials to his plight.

"I am unemployed. I have three children and many times skip practice since I don't have transportation money."

Ministry of Youth and

Sports Secretary General Thouqan Obeidat then announced that Nadi would be employed at the ministry in support of his efforts.

In the table tennis competition and following their wins over Palestine and Lebanon and defeat to Egypt, Jordan moved closer to a medal after a 3-0 win over Libya.

Jordan will meet Morocco today hoping to win to advance to the final match.

Saturday's three medals brought Jordan's tally up to 15 with four gold, three silver and 8 bronze medals.

The Kingdom's medals included two bronze by Khalidoun Abdul Hameed and Basel Hindawi of the boxing team. Fakhreddin Fuad had clinched the Kingdom's second gold medal in the high jump, while teammate Ala' Abdul Hadi secured a bronze medal in the triple jump.

Ayed Khawaldeh became the first Jordanian to win three weightlifting medals: Nada Kassar had won Jordan's first gold medal in the discus and added a silver medal in the shot put; Amal Matari won a bronze in the women's marathon; Amer Natour took silver and bronze medals in fencing and Kamal Abdul Majid took another bronze in boxing.

Over 3,000 athletes converged on Beirut for the largest gathering of Arab

youth since the event was last held in Syria in 1992.

With Iraqi athletes barred from competition because of a boycott threat by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, 19 countries are taking part in the Beirut Games with only Somalia and the Comoros missing the event.

Twenty events are being held at the Games excluding kick-boxing, bandball, gymnastics, body-building, hockey, diving and water polo for technical and financial reasons.

The Kingdom's 187-strong delegation which includes 94 men and 33 women athletes are competing in 14 of the 20 events. The delegation also includes 27 officials, 20 coaches and 13 referees.

Jordan dropped participation in cycling, tennis and volleyball, and will be competing in athletics, basketball, karate, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, boxing, equestrian, fencing, soccer, weightlifting, judo, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling and shooting. Other events at the Games include golf and yachting.

In line with international rules, drug testing was introduced for the first time since the Arab Games were launched in 1953. All gold medalists are being tested for performance-enhancing drugs, in addition to one other competitor selected in

Schedule of events of Jordanian competitors at the 8th Pan-Arab Games for Sunday July 20, 1997

- Soccer Jordan-Oman
- Table Tennis men's second round matches
- Weightlifting Awad Abondi (130 kilogrammes)

Medal standings following Friday's events at the 8th Pan-Arab Games

Nation	G	S	B	Total
Egypt	23	16	15	54
Algeria	17	16	16	49
Morocco	12	11	5	28
Qatar	8	4	2	14
Tunisia	6	3	7	16
Saudi Arabia	4	5	5	14
Syria	2	10	16	28
Lebanon	2	6	10	18
Jordan	2	2	8	12
Kuwait	1	5	8	14
Oman	1	1	1	3
Sudan	0	1	2	3

a draw in each event.

Lebanon is hosting the Arab World's premier sports event for the first time since the second Arab Games in 1957.

Jordan has received approval to host the 9th Pan-Arab Games in 2001. Kuwait was chosen as a substitute in case Jordan withdrew their bid.

Jordanian sports officials have underlined their support for organising and taking part in the Pan-Arab Games which have only been held seven times since 1953.

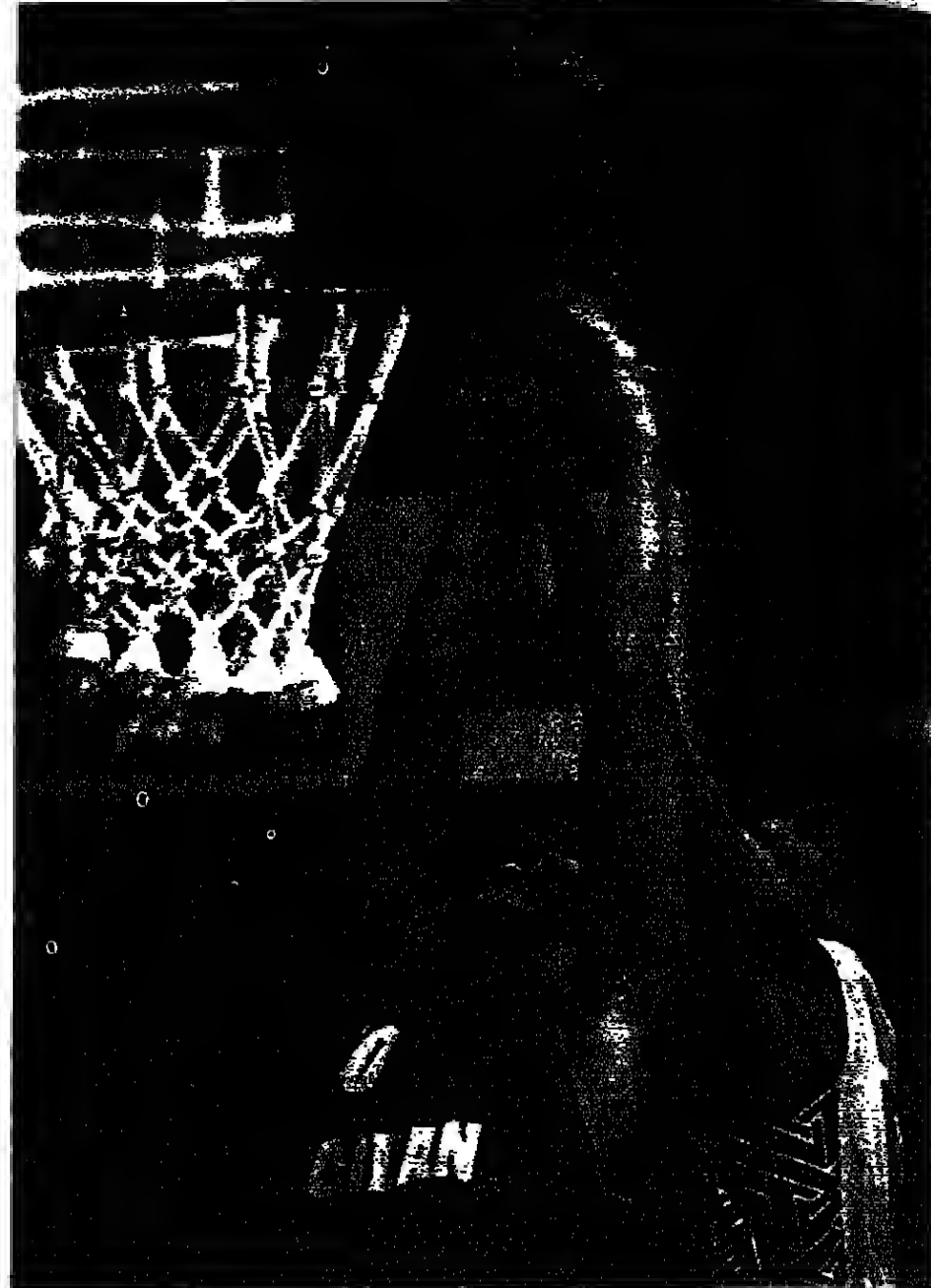
But the Games, designed to emphasise Arab brother-

hood, were clouded by Lebanon's refusal to grant the Iraqi team entry visas for fear of provoking Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Jordan has taken part in all past seven Pan-Arab Games gaining a total of 49 medals (7 gold, 16 silver, 26 bronze).

Jordan finished 9th overall in the last Pan-Arab Games in 1992 with 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals.

The Pan-Arab Games were held in Alexandria 1953, Beirut 1957, Casablanca 1961, Cairo 1965, Damascus 1976, Rahat 1985 and Damascus 1992.



Zeid Alkhas (L) of Jordan fights for the ball with Kamal Aqabi (R) of Morocco tries to block him under the Moroccan basket during the qualification round of the Pan-Arab Games in Beirut (Reuters photo)

Soccer team meets Oman; basketball players prepare to face Syria

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

JORDAN NEEDS to beat Oman Sunday in order to qualify to the second round of the soccer competition at the Pan-Arab Games currently underway in Beirut.

The Kingdom's team had lost earlier chances to secure early qualification when they lost a 1-0 lead against Libya and conceded the equaliser to the their opponents as the match ended 1-1.

Their match against Lebanon had also ended in a 1-1 draw.

Lebanon qualified to the second round after beating Libya 2-1 Saturday evening and Jordan will now have to beat Oman to join them in the next round.

Eight countries are taking part in the soccer event. Group 1 includes Jordan, Lebanon, Oman and Libya. Group 2 includes Kuwait, the UAE, Syria and Mauritania.

The top two teams in each group qualify to the second round the top two teams of which move to the final while the other two will play for third and fourth places.

Jordanian team officials were hopeful they got the easier draw facing teams they had met recently.

In World Cup qualifiers last April, they beat Oman 2-1 and 4-1 in while drawing 0-0 and losing 1-0 to Lebanon.

The team was impressive in training matches against top Turkish teams of Galatasaray and Istanbulspor.

Men's team needs to beat Syria to qualify

As Jordan's qualifying chances were boosted after Saudi Arabia notched up an excellent 94-70 win over defending champions Syria, the Kingdom's team needs to do the same Tuesday to move to the second round of the men's basketball competition.

The team had two days off before playing their crucial match which they will have to win to qualify as only the top two teams in each group will contest the semifinal round starting July 23.

Playing in Group 1, Jordan beat Morocco 59-47 in their last match to keep alive their qualifying hopes. They beat Libya 95-66 in the opening match, and lost 88-59 to Saudi Arabia.

Group 2 includes Lebanon, Qatar, the UAE and Kuwait.

In their match against Morocco the Kingdom's team dictated the pace and

seemed to have overcome technical difficulties surrounding the head coach whose tantrums led officials to add Rizeq Masri and women's coach Ezzil Sabbah to assist him during matches.

The team is led by a young line-up including Zeid Alkhas, Mahmoud Sh'aban, and Faisal Nsour having a tough task ahead with big names like Hilal Barakat, Yousef Zaghloul, Naser Bushnaq and Marwan Ma'touq missing from the line-up.

Jordan had objected to the two group draw since rules stipulate that the nine competing teams should have been divided into three groups with the titleholders (Syria) atop one group, the runner up (Jordan) in another and the hosts (Lebanon) in the third.

However, Lebanese officials said Jordan's representative had not lodged a formal protest at the time of the draw it would not be accepted.

Jordan had won the first gold medal in team sports when the basketball team were crowned champions after defeating Iraq 80-78 in the final in the 1985 Games in Morocco. They finished runner-up behind Syria in the 1992 Games in Syria.

Jordan loses to Tunisia in women's basketball, still has a chance at bronze medal

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JORDAN'S WOMEN'S basketball team Saturday lost 52-41 to Tunisia in their third match dimming their hopes of a bronze medal in the five-team event.

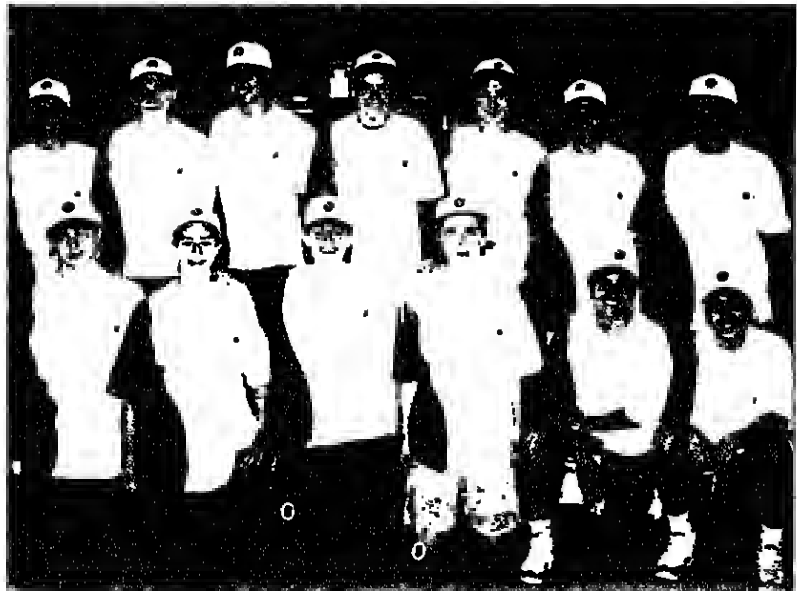
Jordan held on to a 22-22 first half score against the more experienced Tunisians before conceding the loss. However, they still have a chance at a medal in their final match against Lebanon Tuesday which they will have to win to take third place.

Jordan led 10-6 at the beginning of the match and kept a slight lead throughout the first half in which Tunisia managed to tie the score in the final minute of the half.

While Jumana Salti scored 11 of her 18 points in the first half, her teammates Hala Khalaf and Luma Abu Judum had an instrumental role in penetrating the Tunisian defence.

In the second half, Tunisia applied a press defence leading to turnovers especially after limiting the movement of Jordan's playmaker Hala Muheisen.

Scoring came as follows: Jumana Salti 17, Hala Muheisen 10, Luma



Women's basketball team

Abu Judum 8, Hind Ghouri 4, Rana Hussein 2, Hala Khalaf 1.

Tunisia's coach praised the Kingdom's team but added: "Your players only played one half. We took control of the other."

Jordan's coach Fadi Sabbah said: "Tunisia are a strong team and I did-

n't expect my players to play so well against them. We await our match against Lebanon."

In other matches, Tunisia beat Lebanon 55-52 and both seem well-placed to take the top places. Jordan had lost to Egypt 79-46 in their opening match while Lebanon beat

Syria 57-44.

Jordan had boosted their chances following a hard fought 56-53 win over Syria.

Jordan's win over Syria was a moral-boosting result for the team and women's basketball in general as a high question mark loomed over the team's participation in the Pan-Arab Games after they lost three of their friendly matches against Syria and were the only given the go-ahead to take part in the Games to ensure continuity for the women's game which had been non-existent from 1983-1995 when the team took part in the Asian Championship.

Jumana Salti, who was chosen as one of the Asian Championships' five top players in 1995 is leading the Jordanian team which includes Rana Hussein, Hala Muheisen, Zina Farah, Luma Abu Judum, Hind Ghouri, Hala Khalaf, Hala Ghattas, Lubna Masri, Sira Naghaway, Tala Mauge and Tetyana Qardan.

Basketball is the only team sport Jordan's women will take part in. Individual sports are athletics, swimming, taekwondo, equestrian and table tennis.

Despite barriers, women compete and win

BEIRUT (AP) — When Baya Rahouli was chosen to be on the Algerian team to the Arab Games she never thought there would be so many women participants.

To her surprise, about 600 out of 2,700 athletes taking part in the Eighth Arab Games in Lebanon are women.

"Arab women have proved they can be great athletes," the four-times gold medalist told the Associated Press Friday.

It needed determination to show the generally conservative Arab society, where in some countries women are largely confined to their homes and can only travel accompanied by male relatives, that women can compete — and win.

"What's important is that we will be

there from now on, competing in international events to show that Arab women are sports women and not just housewives," Rahouli said.

Rahouli, almost 18, emerged as the star in the women's track and field competitions. She won golds in the women's 100 metres, the 100 metre hurdles, long jump and triple jump. She also earned a silver as part of Algeria's women's team in the 4 by 100 metres relay.

Rahouli, 1.78-metre tall, completed the 100 metre hurdles in 14.11 seconds, shattering the previous Arab

record of 14.18 seconds set by compatriot Nasira Ashir in Algeria in 1985, the first time women were able to compete in the Arab Games since it began in 1953.

The number of women participants in the 1985 and 1992 Games were not available.

Dalila Meyale, a 34-year-old Algerian mother of three, claimed the first gold medal of the Games when she won the women's 21-kilometre marathon in 1 hour 26 minutes and 41 seconds.

She said then that poverty and a

desire to prove that women can win pushed her ahead.

"I stay on in sports because I want to prove a point to the authorities who are nonchalant about female sports," said Meyale.

Hamida Ben Hussein, 16, and Naeema Ben Taher, 14, both fellow mates on the 22-strong women contingent of the 237-member Algerian team, also were winners. Ben Hussein won a gold in women's high jump and Ben Taher earned a bronze in women's heptathlon.

Four women competing in fencing

were on the 277-strong Kuwaiti team, the first time a nation from the ultra-conservative Gulf region sends women athletes to an Arab competition. They didn't make it to the top three slots, but it was a start for Kuwaiti women athletes.

Amani Mustafa Adasani of Kuwait said she found it "somewhat strange" to travel with other women teammates to participate in the Games. "Traditions sometimes stand as barrier to achieving ambitions," she told the Beirut As-Safir newspaper.

Balsam Mohammed Ayoub, also

from Kuwait, said Gulf women should follow the Kuwaiti women's precedent to participate in future competitions.

Women athletes also developed a certain bond in the male-dominated games.

"Even though we don't have much time to see one another but at least we meet, we discuss our results and make new friendships," Algeria's Rahouli said.

Lebanon's Saoud Al Hareth, who won gold in women's javelin, paid Rahouli a visit at her Beirut hotel room to offer to take her out for lunch. "It's a wonderful thing to see other Arab women competing," a satisfied Rahouli said, flicking her five medals in her hands.

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Keanu Reeves ... in
A WALK IN THE CLOUDS

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PLAZA

Tom Cruise...in
JERRY MAGUIRE
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30

Adel Imam...in
BAKHIT AND ADEELAH (PART 2)
(Aljardal wai kanaka)
Shows: 8:30 - 10:30

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Jake Matlala of South Africa enjoys his victory over IBA light flyweight champion Michael Carbajal in Las Vegas. Matlala, the shortest active professional fighter at 4' 8", gave up his WBO title to face Carbajal. The fight was stopped in the ninth round with Carbajal bleeding over both eyes (Reuters photo)

Yeboah offers money-back goal guarantee

BONN (R) — Ghana striker Tony Yeboah, desperate for a move from English side Leeds, has reportedly made prospective employers an incredible offer — a money-back guarantee that he will score 15 goals next season.

"If I don't score 15 goals, then I'll give back half my salary," Yeboah told Saturday's edition of the German newspaper Bild. "I'm one of the 10 best strikers in the world."

The former Eintracht Frankfurt forward, who was training this week in the German city of Mainz, said he now planned to return to Ghana but added: "If a club shows an interest, I'll come back straight away."

Yeboah, 31, is still under contract with Leeds but wants to leave because he does not get on with manager George Graham. He has not appeared for pre-season training in England.

It is believed that Leeds have given him the go-ahead to leave if he can find a club to pay a transfer fee of around \$1.7 million.

Nagano says working on image problem

NAGANO, Japan (R) — Nagano is unlikely to be accused of the tawdry commercial excesses which marked last year's summer Olympics in Atlanta.

In fact, organisers of next February's winter Olympics go into Tuesday's 200 day countdown to the games hustling to shed an image of massive indifference.

"We are working hard to change our image," said Ko Yamaguchi, the media head for the games. "I think it's wrong already."

He said the criticism levelled at the Nagano organisers earlier this year for not doing enough to promote the games was no longer valid.

Nagano was blasted by International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch and even Japan's own Olympic chief for poor organisation.

A high-profile fight with the International Ski Federation over the starting height of the men's downhill has also bruised Nagano's image.

Organisers have repeatedly rejected federation requests to raise the height of start, saying that would put it into a national park.

The lack of publicity so far means there is not much Olympic spirit seen on the streets of Nagano yet, and none in larger cities such as Tokyo.

Fumiya Nonaka, a Tokyo business-

man on a recent business trip to Nagano, said he was surprised by the lack of advertisements for the games.

"I haven't seen many ads yet (in Nagano), and I haven't seen any in Tokyo," he said. "There will probably be more later."

Yamaguchi also said momentum for the games will start to pick up in the Autumn.

"After the summer things will change," he said. "I'm not worried, once it starts snowing, Nagano will prevail."

One of the bigger potential problems organisers face, especially after the fiasco in Atlanta with lost and late buses, is transport.

One-third of the 68 events at the games are based in or near the resort of Hakuba, 50 kilometres west of Nagano on a windy highway.

The trip took more than 2-1/2 hours during a pre-Olympic ski jumping event earlier this year.

Yamaguchi said organisers will seek the cooperation of the public and companies to try to cut the general traffic by about 30 per cent during the games.

Yamaguchi also said all of the competition facilities will be ready before the end of this year.

"I don't think that there is anything behind schedule, almost all of the construction is finished, and we are just adjusting some facilities now at the request of the IOC."

The budget has ballooned from the original 76 billion Yen (\$658.3 million) set when Nagano was awarded the games in 1991 to 103 billion Yen now, but Yamaguchi does not expect any further changes.

"There are no plans now to increase or decrease the budget," he said.

The budget does not include the cost of the competition facilities, which were paid for by local municipalities, or a new high-speed train which will cut the current three-hour travel time to Tokyo in half when it starts running in October.

Yamaguchi said interest in the games was also picking up on the Internet, with Nagano's homepage (www.Nagano.Olympic.Org/) averaging about 42,000 hits a day, 60 per cent from outside the country.

Yamaguchi also said ticket sales have been going well and for the more popular events were available only through packages offered by travel agents.

"We've sold out of the (men's) hockey final, the opening and closing ceremonies and the figure skating finals," he said.

After Cambodia pulled out last week in the aftermath of a political coup, 82 countries now are expected to send about 3,000 athletes and officials to participate in seven sports over the 16-day event.

Seles overcomes 15-year old newcomer

MAHWAH, New Jersey (R) — A couple of months ago, Steffi Graf played a close final-round match against Mirjana Lucic of Croatia in Strasbourg and later told the 15-year-old she had a great future.

Now another former World No. 1, Monica Seles, has had a chance to play Lucic and she is just as impressed.

Seles survived the worst serving of her career in turning back Lucic 2-6 7-5 6-0 in a 99-minute quarter-final at a \$125,000 women's tennis exhibition tournament on Friday.

"She hits the ball very hard," said Seles, a winner of nine Grand Slam titles who prompted the same sort of comment when she hit the scene. "She is physically strong for her age. She certainly has a great future ahead of her."

The 23-year-old Seles, ranked No. 3 now behind Martina Hingis and Jana Novotna, committed 19 double faults and only made 40 first serves in 98 attempts.

But credit the hard-hitting Lucic for applying continuous pressure through almost two sets before faltering in the final stages of a match that surprised a crowd of 4,500.

Lucic, ranked 68, held a 6-2 4-2 lead before Seles recovered to keep pace with



Monica Seles

25th-ranked Anna Kournikova, a winner in an earlier quarter-final.

Kournikova rallied from a 2-5 deficit in the first set to take a 7-6 (7-2) 6-1 victory over 70th-ranked American Ann Grossman. Two weeks ago, the 16-year-old Russian was a surprise semi-finalist at Wimbledon, losing to eventual champion Hingis.

Lucic, who won the first tournament she ever played on the pro circuit, the Croatian Women's Open in May and reached the finals in the

next two, in Strasbourg and Marseilles, kept Seles back on her heels with deep returns before the Yugoslav-born American rose to the challenge.

"I had my chances," said Lucic, "but Monica's game got better and mine went down." Lucic, who turns 16 next March 9, will be limited to playing only on the smaller women's circuit until that date according to the rules of the WTA tour.

Because of Lucic's ranking, however, she is expected to play next month at the

U.S. Open, which is governed by the International Tennis Federation.

Seles, making her first appearance since a disappointing Wimbledon, will next meet No. 29 Chanda Rubin, the 1995 winner here who advanced with a 6-3 6-2 victory over fellow-American Angela Lettiere.

Maggie Maleeva of Bulgaria set up a match against Kournikova by beating Elena Likhovtseva 6-4 1-0 as the Russian retired due to an arm injury.

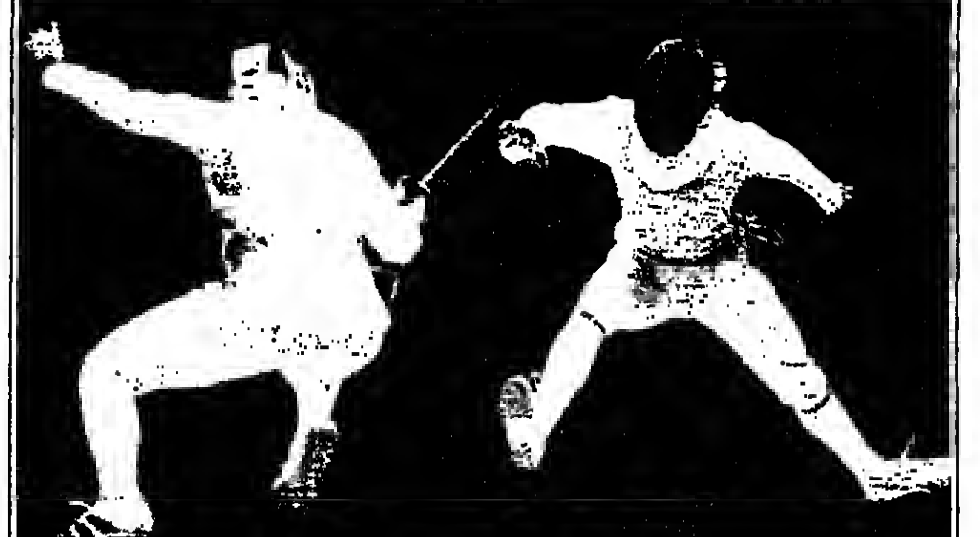
SPORTS IN BRIEF

Agassi enters LA field

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Andre Agassi, who crashed in a first-match loss here Wednesday, has accepted a wildcard entry into next week's ATP tour event at Los Angeles. He will be seeded seventh. Doug Flach beat Agassi 2-6, 6-4, 6-4, in a second-round match in Washington in the former world number one's first match following a two-and-a-half month layoff with a wrist injury. Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic will be the top seed in Los Angeles, followed, in order, by Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, Mark Philippoussis of Australia, Dutchman Richard Krajicek, Australian pat rafter and Americans Jim Courier, Agassi and Alex O'Brien.

Pearce joins Newcastle

LONDON (R) — Veteran England defender Stuart Pearce joined Newcastle on Friday, a day after being given a free transfer by Nottingham Forest. Pearce, 35, underwent a medical and signed a three-year contract with last season's Premier League runners-up. He left Forest, who were relegated from the top flight last season, saying he wanted to play in the Premier League to enhance his chances of representing England in the World Cup. There was speculation that Pearce would move south but instead he joined Kenny Dalglish's side who recently sold left-back Robbie Elliott to Bolton.



Italian Giovanna Trifunovic (L) clashes with Romania's Roxana Scarlat (R) in the final of the Women's Foil Teams event at the World Fencing Championships (Reuters photo)

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White Sox	3	Baltimore	0
Milwaukee	6	NY Yankees	4
Detroit	5	Texas	4
Toronto	2	Anaheim	1
Seattle	5	Kansas City	4
Minnesota	7	Oakland	3

National League

San Diego	5	Florida	3
Houston	2	Montreal	0
Philadelphia	8	Pittsburgh	6
Atlanta	4	Los Angeles	1
NY Mets	4	Cincinnati	3
St Louis	6	San Francisco	5

• Colorado At Chicago Cubs Postponed

Wheaton reaches Washington semis

WASHINGTON (R) — David Wheaton's return from an eight-month layoff and foot surgery took another leap forward Friday when he defeated Vince Spadea 6-3 4-6 6-2 to reach the semi-finals of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic.

Forced to qualify for the 56-man field after his once lofty world ranking of No. 12 dropped as low as 275, Wheaton made Spadea the third successive seeded player he has beaten. Earlier, he defeated Jason Stoltenberg (5) and Marzio Marcelli (12).

"I had surgery on my right heel at the end of March, so I'm happy just to be able to play matches, much less win them," said Wheaton, a one-time Wimbledon semi-finalist.

Wheaton lost to Andre Agassi in the fourth round of the open at Flushing Meadows. Shortly thereafter, the

troublesome Heal began to act up and he rested it.

"I was hoping that would do it, but it didn't," he said.

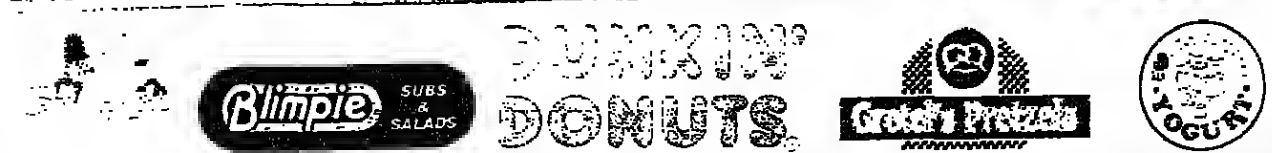
Wheaton made his first start on grass at Newport earlier this month and reached the quarter-finals before losing to Grant Stafford. He will play Petr Korda Saturday in his first semi-final since Newport two years ago.

Second-seeded Korda advanced to the semi-finals by slipping by Germany's Tommy Haas 6-7 (2-7) 6-4 6-4 despite becoming ill in the middle of the third set with the score tied at 3-3.

In the other semi-final, top seed Michael Chang will take on New Zealander Brett Steven.

Chang defeated seventh-seeded Scott Draper 6-2 6-3, while the 11th-seeded Steven beat unseeded Rainer Schuttler 6-3 6-3.

Opening Tomorrow



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Algerian forces kill 60 rebels — paper

PARIS (UPI) — Algerian security forces killed about 60 Muslim guerrillas and arrested several more in a sustained attack against a hideout where rebel leaders were attending a congress, an Algerian newspaper said Sunday.

The attack began last Monday following the massacre of 14 family members in Balif village in Bou Smail area, 400 kilometres south-west of Algiers, said Al Watan newspaper.

The forces, hunting down the murderers, stumbled on a long tunnel with several exits where the guerrillas from the feared Armed Islamic Group (GIA) were hiding, the usually well-informed newspaper said.

Quoting unnamed sources, Al Watan said 30 GIA leaders attended the meeting which may also have drawn GIA's commander, 27-year-old Amar Zouabri.

The group is blamed by the authorities for the massacre of villagers in remote areas, bombings in cities and the killing of leading intellectuals and journalists.

The newspaper said the operation concluded Friday but it did not say whether GIA leaders, including Zouabri, were still holed up in the tunnel or whether they had fled before the huge operation started.

Between 15 and 20 suspected rebels slaughtered 14 family members in

Ballist week. Al Watan and Liberte newspapers reported last Sunday.

In a separate incident, a bomb explosion killed a young man and wounded another in the Oued Yaich area in Blida.

Al Khabar newspaper said Saturday that the bomb exploded Thursday when the two men arrived home. The device was planted near the victims' door, it said.

About 60,000 people have been killed in Algeria's violence pitting guerrillas against government forces since early 1992, when the authorities cancelled a general election in which Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

Germans committed 'suicide' over Kurdish trial — Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's outgoing President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Saturday that Germany had committed "suicide" under U.S. and Israeli influence by making accusations of terrorism against Iranian leaders.

In the interview with the hard-line Jomhuri-Isfahani newspaper, Mr. Rafsanjani referred to a German court verdict of April 10 implicating Tehran in the 1992 murder of four Kird opposition leaders in Berlin.

"The Germans knew from the start they would be the losers in this affair but despite that they did not know how to safeguard their interests and they committed suicide," he said. Germany is Iran's top trading partner.

He added: "The head of the United States and Israel was behind the German decision."

Following the court ruling, Tehran and Bonn recalled their ambassadors and each expelled four diplomats.

Other EU countries also withdrew their top diplomats in solidarity with Bonn. They later decided to send them back but suspended them return in protest at Iran's refusal to re-admit the German ambassador.

Mr. Rafsanjani is to be replaced on August 3 by a relative moderate, Mohammad Khatami.

German MP Jürgen Möllemann, who visited Tehran last month, expressed hope that relations between the two countries would improve under Mr. Khatami.

Lawyers of British nurses appeal for court to throw out confessions

RIYADH (AFP) — The Saudi law firm of two British nurses accused of killing an Australian colleague said Sunday it has made its case to the legal authorities for its retracted confessions to be thrown out.

The Salah Al Hejailan firm and its "comprehensive legal memorandum" submitted while the trial is in adjournment, "evaluates the discredited confessions and other evidence."

It also "sets forth the basis for disqualifying the Gifford family from having any say in this matter under the worst scenario," the Riyadh-based law firm said in a statement.

An Islamic court in Khobar, eastern Saudi Arabia, ruled earlier this month that the mother of victim Yvonne Gifford has the right to decide whether to spare the lives of the British if they are convicted.

But Frank Gifford has refused to consider mercy if Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry are convicted of murder and sentenced to be beheaded by the sword.

Under Islamic law, the victim's family has the right to grant mercy and accept a financial settlement, under a provision called "diya," sparing the lives of killers of their relatives.

The Hejailan firm also argued Saturday that the Gifford family's denial of a lesbian relationship between the victim and the British nurses stripped the case of a key motivation to kill Yvonne.

The lesbian link was raised when the nurses' confessions to the killing. But McLauchlan and Parry, pleading innocent in court, have retracted the confessions on the grounds they were extracted under duress.

The closed-door trial has been adjourned since July 7. The issue of the Australian family's rights had to be settled before a verdict on the killing of the 55-year-old senior theatre nurse.

The court will set a date for the next hearing "at the conclusion of the judges' deliberation" on the case, according to the Hejailan firm.

It said the court could reject the confessions and dismiss the case, examine them at future hearings, submit the case to a higher authority, or pass a guilty verdict.

If found guilty, but not of first degree murder, the nurses could face a maximum of five years in jail.

The defence firm said that family members of the jailed nurses will visit them next weekend. "This will hopefully be the last visit before the case is dismissed," it said.

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